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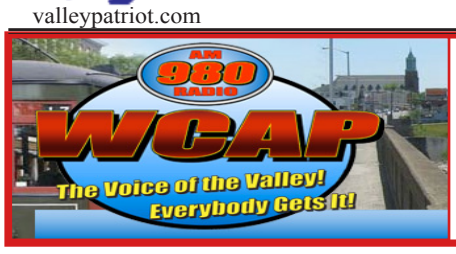
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JULY, 2015
VOLUME 12, ISSUE 7
Edition 141



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SEE PAGE 4

Community Remembers Michelle



In 1985 a 14 year old girl named Michelle Pimentel was murdered by her step-father. Two months ago Valley Patriot readers, advertisers and listeners to 980WCAP in Lowell stepped up and donated more than $4,000 to help the family buy a headstone to remember her

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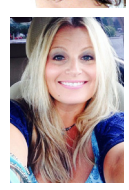
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Valley Patriot of the Month

HEROES IN OUR MIDST - LAWRENCE COGSWELL, PART 3

Sidney Smith
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Before each individual squadron take-off, it required the efforts of thousands of people involved in intelligence, target selections, weather info including not just surface conditions, but winds aloft at varying altitudes as well as icing conditions, target routes, ordinance required with fusing requirements, squadron aircraft availability, aircrew availability, alternate target choices, decoys and decoy routes, fighter escort range, expected fighter attacks, known flak (anti-aircraft) installations etc.

And it all had to work seamlessly or ... some would pay the ultimate price.

As the old saying goes, the ground crews especially knew the absolute necessity of getting it all right because of the all-too-truism: for want of a nail...

It was those ground personnel remaining behind who knew the quiet reality of what was termed "sweating them in" as they waited for the familiar sound of the returning bombers. (To this day if I hear the rare so-distinctive sound of a B-17, it will bring me upright out of a deep sleep. No one of that era will ever forget the unique sound of those four engines). Everyone among the ground crews back at Deopham Green worried silently about whether or not their crew and their plane would be among the survivors … and if the landing gear was okay ... and if the flaps were not shot away ... if the brakes were working ... if the rudder was still there … but, worst of all, if the dreaded colored flare arced upward from a stricken aircraft and then slid over and fell slowly toward the ground indicating that there were wounded, or worse, on board.

Every man knew how many aircraft had been sent, whether there had been any "aborts", and each man silently counted the returning bombers as they did their classic "peel off" to land. Each man hoping that if "his" plane and "his" crew were missing that "ops" would get a call telling them the welcome news that those boys had been forced to land at some other airfield in East Anglia. As each plane taxied slowly to its hardstand with usually only the outboard engines running, the sound slowly died away as props stopped turning, and the entire bomber seemed somehow to sag as if in tired relief. The crews slowly emerged, faces drawn, tired, emotionally exhausted, quietly glad that once more they had survived, and waited for the ride back to the debriefing room.



Sometimes they might discuss something that had happened on the mission, but usually they just wanted to get out of their flight gear, get something to eat, and sleep, if sleep could come at all.

They tried not to notice the ambulances, or the fire trucks.

If they were very, very lucky, they might get a pass to go to the railroad station at Attleborough and go to London. In London the most popular destination for the guys was the Red Cross-operated Mostyn Club near the Marble Arch because that was one place that actually had heated baths ... and a guy could just lie there and soak in sheer warm relative luxury. They never knew when they might get another opportunity.

By the way, that railroad station at Attleborough is still there and on the wall

HERO: PAGE 35

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Media Lies and Media Bias: Why Trump is Under Attack

Those who work in the "news" industry are obsessed with promoting lies and half-truths to destroy political candidates they do not like, instead of just doing their jobs and reporting the news.

Last month, Donald Trump became the latest to fall victim to the liars in the "news" media, as they feverishly reported Trump's "Anti Mexican" remarks, painting him as a racist and a hate monger.

Here's what he actually said:

"The U.S. has become a dumping ground for everybody else's problems," Trump said. "It's true. And these aren't the best and the finest. When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime; they're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

That's a far cry from "All Mexicans are rapists," or "All immigrants are rapists".

But, that didn't stop the liars in the news media from deceiving the American public about what Trump said.

CNN's Brook Baldwin actually reported: "Donald Trump called all Mexicans rapists and killers" following up by calling his remarks "Anti-Mexican" and that Trump "called all immigrants killers".

It was simply an outright lie. But Baldwin was not alone. Every news outlet followed by repeating the lie ... over and over again in the hopes that stupid people will be outraged. They succeeded.

It is true that many illegal aliens who come to this country through the Mexican border are, in fact, rapists, killers, drug dealers, and other violent criminals. It is also true that many of the illegals who come through the Mexican border are good, God-fearing people, only here to seek a better life. These are two different groups of people, but CNN and the news media want you to think they are one in the same to promote their pro-illegal political views.

Because Trump chose to focus on the criminal immigrants and not the "poor victims of oppression" (as the approved media narrative demands), he brought the news media lie to the forefront of a presidential campaign. Trump publicly challenged the news media lie that all immigrants are wonderful people, and boy did they strike back.

They struck back with dishonest hysteria, they struck back with character assassinations disguised as reporting, and they struck back by trying to make that point of view toxic in the realm of public debate.

We find the current environment of media corruption to be very dangerous in a country that relies on a free press for truth, and a shared understanding of the events going on around us.

When "news" anchors like Brianna Keiler or Brook Baldwin of CNN open their "news" cast with "Macy's has decided to drop Donald Trump for saying all Mexicans are rapists", it is further evidence that the truth is no longer a standard for today's so-called "journalists".

Since we know for a fact that many of the illegal aliens who come to this country are indeed violent rapists and killers, we wonder why the "news" media lie and white wash the issue, in effect defending those rapists and killers? Why is it so important that they white wash the truth and silence Trump's message?

The answer is simple.

Number one, they want chaos in our country because they profit from it. (Can you say Ferguson? Atlanta? Baltimore?)

Number two, if the American public actually started paying attention to the illegals who come here to commit rape, murder, child molestation, drug and gun deals or fraud ... you would be horrified to find out exactly how dangerous this problem really is. You would also start to understand why the cable news media has been distracting you all with daily stories about Duck Dynasty, Kim Kardashian, and Charlie Sheen.

There is absolutely nothing racist or insensitive about focusing on the violent criminals who are illegally coming into this country through Mexico. There is nothing bigoted about trying to stop them from coming. There is nothing racist about advocating sending them all home. But there is certainly something wrong with a news media that reports outright lies to sink the campaign of a political candidate they don't like.

President Obama himself boasts that he has deported more violent illegal alien criminals than every other president combined ... which raises a really good question for liars in the news media like Brook Baldwin at CNN.

If Trump is wrong, and there are no rapists and killers illegally coming over the Mexican border, how come the president is deporting so many of them?

Nobody is calling the president a "hate monger" or "racist". Nobody in the news media calls Obama "Anti-Mexican."

Weird huh?

What's worse, the "news" media obsessively spews the narrative every day, that labeling and stereotyping people is wrong. Yet, every day they label and stereotype illegal aliens as altruistic and wonderful people. But, just let someone like Donald Trump come along and address some of the illegals who come here that rape and kill ... and suddenly that's "reported" as the same as saying "all Mexicans are rapists." Suddenly Trump is the one painted as labeling and stereotyping.

We believe the news industry has sold out the American public with their lies and fake narratives.

The only way to stop it is to stand with those who tell the truth and have their character assassinated for it.

We do not support the presidential candidacy of Donald Trump (as the paper does not support political candidates), but we do stand with him on his position that SOME illegals who come here are indeed killers, rapists and drug dealers.

We also stand with him in his position that those things need to be publicly addressed so that it can be fixed, no matter how much CNN and the rest of the liars in the news media desperately try to silence that message.

Donuts and Life with Keff Katz

Jeff Katz
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

My usual writing ritual involves a hot cup of coffee, extra cream, no sugar in a specific mug. If that coffee is not in one of my official writing mugs, well, there's some major writer's block that I am sure to encounter. Today, in addition to the coffee I have added a Boston Cream Donut from my local Dunkin' Donuts. Right about now, I can almost hear you saying, "Hey that's great…why do I care?"

Well, a few weeks back I read a Facebook post from an old friend of mine talking about her husband's desire to have a Boston Cream Donut. "All Jerry wants is a Boston Cream Donut and Dunkin' Donuts is out of them. Thankfully, the hospice nurse was able to find one and bring it to him. "From a donut to hospice in the span of a few words?" I felt like I had been punched in the gut.

I sent a direct message to my friend Christine and asked what was going on. She told me simply and directly, that Jerry was in the last stages of his life here on earth. After many years of smoking, his lungs were no longer working and everything had become an ordeal. Getting out of bed as well as getting in to bed, getting dressed or showered. Every action took a great deal of time, because Jerry needed to stop to try and catch his breath. Jerry had never been a big guy but he was now at a weight that would be more suited to a middle schooler than an adult man. He did not have much time left. As I read those words, I broke down and started crying. I often thought of Jerry and Christine, but I had not spoken to them in way too long.

Many years ago, during one of my various work related moves, I had wound up in Connecticut. I did not know anyone at all, and somehow Christine and Jerry kind of adopted me. We were all ex-cops so maybe that was it. Or maybe they just wanted to take in another stray, but regardless of what inspired them, I now had a home of sorts. I lived in the same small town as they did and they were forever inviting me over for dinner and lunch and brunch and, well you get the idea. They were serious when they said the coffee is always on so just drop in whenever you want. It was and I did.

What always struck me about Jerry and Christine was how much they truly loved each other. No apologies for it. No hesitation. They were a team and they made each other better people. They were both wicked smart folks, too. The three of us would sit around in their living room, drinking coffee solving all of the problems of the world until the early morning hours more often than not. There was never a single solitary time that I left their house not feeling great.

When I read that Jerry wanted a Boston Cream Donut, I decided that I would figure out a way to send him a box of them. I inquired at Dunkie's if it was possible to ship them. It was going to be a little more complicated than I had originally thought. There were all sorts of shipping logistics to tackle. Would I need to freeze them first? Should I wrap them? Cushion them? Send them by Fed Ex, UPS, or the Postal Service? As I was planning my donut shipment, I got word that Jerry had passed away. Instead of trying to figure out the best way to send them, I should have just sent them.



Jeff Katz hosts an award winning daily talk show, heard from 3PM to 6PM on iheartradio and NEWSRADIO WRVA. You can follow him on twitter @jeffkatzshow and also at facebook.com/radiokatz

Would you join me and hoist a donut high for my friend Jerry…and make it a Boston Cream, please.

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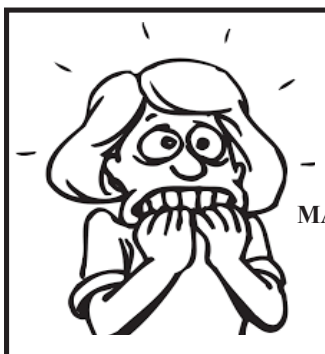
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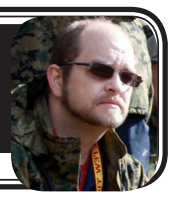
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HOMEWORK IS LIKE A SCARY MOVIE: FUN IF SOMEONE'S WITH YOU

(prestando attencione!)

PAYING ATTENTION!

with Tom Duggan



Lantigua Puppet Modesto Maldonado Must Go

Now that his pal Willie Lantigua is out of office, you will hardly find another politician in Lawrence as slick and sleazy as City Council President Modesto Maldonado. Maldonado was a part of the Lantigua machine. His job in that span of four years on the council was to advance Lantigua's agenda and attack anyone who protested the corruption of the Lantigua administration.

When Lantigua spent $10,000 on curtains for his office, illegally shipped garbage trucks and ambulances to the Dominican Republic, called for a $35M bailout loan from the state, laid off cops and firefighters, illegally laid off city workers and then filled their jobs, gave his family jobs in the school department and accused firefighters of lighting fires... well Modesto was not only in on all of that, he helped Lantigua orchestrate most of it.

MODESTO'S RACE WAR

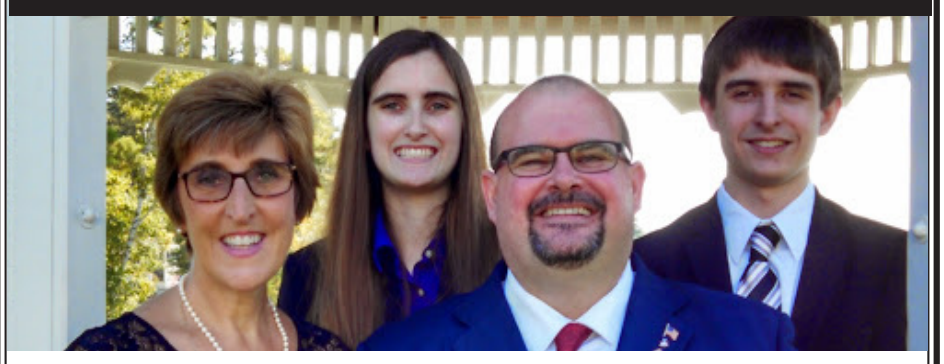
Maldonado is not only a Lantigua puppet, he is also taking over as the lead warrior in Lantigua's race wars in Lawrence. He often taunts white voters at public meetings with assertions that "there are two Lawrences, the racist white South Lawrence in Mount Vernon, and the real Lawrence, the Latino Lawrence."

Maldonado recently spoke at a forum at Saint Mary's, which was held in Spanish only. There, Modesto spear headed an effort to get Lawrence citizens (and non citizens) to support the "Safe Act"... a benign sounding name for letting illegal aliens get valid driver's licenses in Massachusetts.

At a public meeting over the Hispanic Week event in South Lawrence this year, he accused the neighbors of being racist for asking about the city's plan for increased traffic, and lack of parking around the

MALDONADO: PAGE 23

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Al Kaprielian
VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN



We are now in hurricane season, which runs from June 1st to November 30th in the northern hemisphere.

Hurricanes form when the ITCZ (inter tropical convergence zone) moves north of the equator. The ITCZ is where different wind flows meet. Where the wind flows meet or come together, we call this convergence. After the air converges it rises and spreads out, we call this divergence. When this process continues the air is cooling as it rises. It eventually cools to the dew point and this leads to condensation, which is a huge contributor to cloud development. Hurricanes form over warm tropical ocean waters where the temperatures of these waters are 80 degrees or greater. When hurricanes move over cooler ocean waters as they move up the east coast they weaken, especially when they reach the ocean waters off the New England south coast. When hurricanes move over land they weaken because they lose the heat from the ocean. Also, when hurricanes move over land, the friction from the land mass causes hurricanes to weaken.

The friction retards (or slows down the wind speed). The greatest areas in New England to get a direct hit from a hurricane are Cape Cod & the Islands and other areas along the New England south coast.

Unlike low pressure systems, hurricanes do not have any weather fronts attached to them. Hurricanes are their own identity. Hurricanes move by the jet stream. The jet streams are winds 20 to 40 thousand feet above the earth's surface. If the jet stream is weak where the hurricane is located, then the movement of the hurricane can become erratic and difficult to predict. In this situation, the hurricane can become stationary. Like a low-pressure system, the circulation around a hurricane is counter-clockwise, from right to left.

To the right side of the hurricane is where the strongest winds are located. To the left side of the hurricane is where the heaviest rain and least wind are located. So, areas that get the strongest wind or heaviest rain depend on the track of the hurricane and which side you are located on.

The parts of a hurricane are as follows: the center of the hurricane is called the eye. This is where there is sinking air and subsidence, which causes the clouds to break and the sun to come out. In the eye, winds diminish to light or even calm. This does NOT mean the effects of the hurricane are over!!! Once the eye passes your area the strong winds and rain return. Surrounding the eye is the eye wall. This is the area where some of the heaviest rain occurs. Surrounding the eye wall are spiral bands. Tornadoes can form in the spiral bands due to intense severe thunderstorms.

Lastly, hurricanes are named to aware the public of the great danger they pose. When a hurricane is forecast to hit an area, evacuation of that area goes into effect. People who choose not to evacuate can be in danger due to tremendous flooding. People can drown in flooding caused by hurricanes. Hurricane names alternate with male and female. If all the names in the alphabet are used, then names are chosen from the Greek alphabet. Because of their severe impact, hurricanes Katrina and Andrew will NOT be used gain. Their names are retired. Hopefully, this article gives you a better understanding of hurricanes and the danger they can pose.



Al Kaprielian is a world famous meteorologist who has worked for several New Hampshire and Massachusetts media outlets. He is now an EXCLUSIVE columnist for The Valley Patriot. You can hear Al's weather forecast daily on 980WCAP in Lowell as well as on the Paying Attention! Radio Program on Saturday Mornings at 10:35AM. Email your questions and comments to 7al61@comcast.net.

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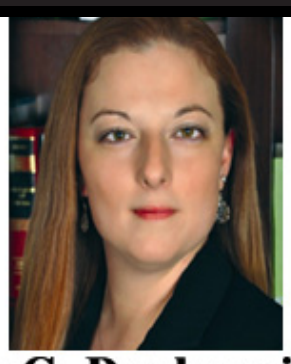


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A Debt of Gratitude

Oscar Camargo
NORTH ANDOVER COLUMNIST



I have an outstanding debt that's been accruing interest for quiet some time. Allow me to explain.

My parents were illegal immigrants from Mexico. Now, I'm not here to defend their decision to enter this country illegally or talk about our outdated immigration policies; rather, I want to talk about duty and obligation.

Growing up, I didn't know my parent's legal status. Most kids usually don't, they're more concerned with playing with other kids, going to school, getting into harmless misadventures. It wasn't until I was much older when I learned about my parents' situation.

When President Reagan signed the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, my parents were among the many who applied for legal status. I remember watching my mother study as she took steps to become a naturalized citizen. My father, having never learned to read or write, never took advantage of this opportunity. Me? I was born in this country and by default I was a citizen—but I never earned it.

For me, that was a pitiful excuse. I felt morally obliged to give back—to pay a debt of gratitude. You see, I wasn't a prodigy born into a family of great affluence or wealth. No, I was born a son of illegal immigrants who were struggling to make ends meet. Yet, I was fortunate to have been born and raised in this country; privileged to go through its public school systems; honored to attend and graduate from its finest institutions of higher learning; and humbled by the opportunities it afforded me.

That's why I joined the military and enlisted in the Army—it was the least I

CAMARGO: PAGE 6

North Andover Senior Tax Relief Program

Applications for the North Andover Senior Tax Relief Program are now available for pick-up at the North Andover Senior Center.

The application must be filled out completely and include all required documentation. Applicants must be 60 years of age, own and occupy the property for which North Andover property taxes are paid, and meet the minimum skill level required for the assigned position.

Chosen applicants must complete 90 hours of service between September 8, 2015 and May 27, 2016 (total hours per week not to exceed 10).

To be considered in the application process you must provide your most recent property tax bill, complete an I-9 Form and the application including Parts A and Part B. Additionally you must present a government issued ID. Applications must be returned to the Senior Center by 1:00 p.m. on Friday July 24, 2015 without exception. If the number of applicants exceeds 35, the selection process will be made by lottery on August 14, 2015 at 10am at the North Andover Senior Center. If you are selected you must be cleared through the CORI system and then you can be assigned as a volunteer to a position that matches your skills.

Opportunities for placement may be in the Town Hall, the North Andover Schools, Senior Center, Stevens Memorial Library, Stevens Estate, Police Department, Veterans Office, Water Department, Community Development and Building Department.

Participants who complete all their 90 contracted hours by May 27, 2016 (no exception) will receive $810.00 in a property tax abatement based on $9.00 per hour of service. This amount is considered taxable income. A Medicare payment of approximately $10.00 will be deducted from your total tax abatement.

ACTIVITIES FROM THE CENTER AT PUNCHARD

GRILL NIGHTS - July 9 and 23 from 5-7pm. Pre-payment required. Prices start at $5 for a complete meal. Movie will follow at 6:30pm. Community is welcome.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Thursday, July 16 at 9am. Please be our guest for a complimentary breakfast. Come and meet Carol Howe, our transportation coordinator. Bring your questions and/or concerns about transportation to such places as medical appointments, the grocery store or to The Center to participate in activities or lunch.

LOWELL CANAL TRIP - Thursday, July 16 at 8:45am. $20 covers transportation as well as admission for the trip. This is part of the Women's Outdoor Adventure program.

TAI CHI BEGINNER - July 21 to August 13. Cost: $28. Tuesdays at 1:10pm. and Thursdays at 2:15pm. Two times per week for this intensive beginner's tai chi program. You will be ready to go for the fall to join a newly forming beginner's tai chi program.

MEN's OUTDOOR ADVENTURE GROUP - Wednesday, July 22, 9am. Trip to Boston Harbor Islands. Call to be included in this group.

SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN - BoomerVenture - Thursday, July 23 from 6:45 – 8:15pm. $22. Take control and find courage as you learn techniques to defend yourself from aggressors. Learn to recognize imminent danger as well as verbal and physical aggression before the possibility of an attack can occur. Techniques will include diversion/distraction, action vs. reaction and information about your personal "bubble zones" of safety. Daughters and granddaughters welcome - you will work in pairs. Kristin LaShoto, Homeland Security.

MEET THE AUTHOR - Thursday, July 30 at 1:30pm. Free. Gather round to enjoy local Andover resident and Korean War veteran Leo Griffin as he shares from his novel "Bunker Hill Day". Using memories from his childhood in Charlestown as a foundation for his work, Leo's character Fitzi travels from juvenile delinquency to a PhD at MIT in his search to find himself. Reception follows.

LAST WISHES - Thursday, August 6 at 1:30pm. Free. Tom Sawyer attended his own funeral and heard what folks had to say about him. What would you like your loved ones to hear about you? Discuss practical matters to ensure your wishes are met and to make life easier for your survivors: wills, trusts, obituaries and funerals. Fred Hopkins, instructor, has prepared a workbook by this title that will be available.

Weekly classes are offered in aerobics (seated to very vigorous), strength training, beginning and intermediate yoga, basic and performance tap dancing. Open Art studio drop in as well as a book club, knitting & fiber arts meet regularly as well. Call to inquire.

The Center at Punchard (The Center), 30 Whittier Court, Andover. Hours 8am. to 4pm. Pre-registration required for all events and space is limited. Register at www.myactivecenter.com. Open to entire community, pending space. Call for information: 978-623-8321. Or visit www.andoverseniorcenter.org for our complete listings.

NORTH ANDOVER SENIOR CENTER

Fresh Table is in full swing. Every Wednesday volunteers create a homemade meal that is served at the Senior Center. Sign up is limited to 30 seniors and you must pay ($5) at time of sign up by the Friday before. Menus available at reception.

TUESDAY NIGHT DINNER BUFFET: Tuesday July 14th at 4pm. Sign up begins Thursday July 2nd. Limited to 35 North Andover seniors. Sponsoring host is Blaire House of Tewksbury. Menu available with reception. $4 due at time of sign up.

DAY TRIP TO ROCKPORT AND BEAR SKIN NECK: Thursday July 16th. Van charge is $6 and lunch is on your own at any of the area eating establishments. Sign Up begins Thursday July 2nd. Bus departs at 9:30.

CHESS CLUB: Interested in LEARNING or TEACHING? Tuesdays 1-3. Call reception 978-688-9560 to sign up.

ONE-ON-ONE COMPUTER INSTRUCTION: 45 minute sessions for $7. Tuesdays with George Chory and Thursdays with Tom Kooken. Hours are 9-12. Make your appointments with reception 978-688-9560. This time can accommodate gadgets, too, if necessary (Phones, Tablets, etc.)

S.H.I.N.E. VOLUNTEERS: (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to North Andover residents on Medicare; Call center for an appointment. Third Tuesday of the month, in June, July and August.

NEWS & VIEWS: Every Wednesday at 10–11:30. Come and join in the lively discussion of current events, politics, history and you never know what else?!

MEET WITH AN ATTORNEY: Atty. Ray Cannon, July 1st and Atty. Ramsey Bahrawy, July 21st. Schedule with Reception-first consult is free.

MR. FIX IT: First and Third THURSDAY of the month from 12-3pm. We repair almost as good as new. Lamps, with cords and sockets, replace watch batteries, small tables and chairs. Anything that is not listed, we will give it a shot! Your cost is $2 - $4 depending on work needed, plus parts. Proceeds benefit the Senior Center.

WALK IN CLINIC: Wednesdays 9-12 pm, the North Andover Senior Center and Home Health Inc/VNA operate a wellness clinic. If you are a North Andover Senior, we urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to check your blood pressure, blood sugar, weight and blood oxygen levels. Consult privately with an RN regarding any medication and health issues that you are concerned about. There is no charge for this service. Donations are gratefully accepted.

FOOT CARE: RN Catherine Languedoc, Foot Care Specialist ($25), 3rd Friday of every month from 8:30-2:30.

WALKING GROUP- Our Walking Group walks at the Old Town Common during the summer at 9 a.m., Monday through Friday.

North Andover Country Club Golf Passes are available with reception. Two (2) 7 week programs are available to North Andover, age 60+senior residents. Courtesy Passes are $6, one program per senior with proof of residency only. Tee times are on Mondays, from12:30 – 2:30. 9 holes $15 and 18 holes $20. Dress code required.

Volunteers are the backbone of the North Andover Senior Center, we currently need Medical Transport Volunteers. You can set your own hours. Call the Senior Center for more information. Speak with our Program Coordinator at 688-9560 for an application and assistance.



Haverhill Police Arrest Methuen Man Masturbating in His Car Near Kids



Haverhill Police Detectives say they arrested Methuen resident Matthew Homan (33, of 40 Danbury Dr.) on 2 counts of Open and Gross Lewdness earlier this week.

According to police, Haverhill Detective Sean Scharneck was conducting surveillance in the area of Lawrence St. on Wednesday morning while children were walking to school due. Scharneck was investigating a report last week from a young child who said he saw a man exposing himself while driving.

During Detective Scharneck's surveillance he observed Matthew Homan operating a vehicle similar to the suspect vehicle with his genitalia exposed as he masturbated while driving past him and the children walking to school.

Homan was stopped by Detective Scharneck and arrested. Homan was booked at the Haverhill Police Station and then arraigned in Haverhill District Court where he was held on $10,000 bail.

Detective Captain Robert Pistone stated " Although it is unfortunate that a child witnessed this alleged, crude, alarming behavior, The Haverhill Police commend the bravery and maturity of this young victim by coming forward and reporting the initial crime last week to the Haverhill Police, which lead to the subsequent investigation and arrest of Homan by Detective Sean Scharneck. This particular case was a priority for Detective Scharneck who put in a lot of time watching the neighborhoods where kids were walking to schools in the morning. The Haverhill Police encourage parents to speak with their children to see if there may have been any other incidents similar to this that may have gone unreported."

Baker's Administration Changes Security Prisons in Response to NY Prison Break

Secretary of Public Safety Daniel Bennett today announced a reformed security procedure regarding access by attorneys to clients held in Department of Correction facilities in Massachusetts.

Bennett says the new regulations are effective immediately, and are designed to strike an improved balance between prison security and personal privacy.

"The changes we have made to Department of Correction security procedures recognize the critical role that attorneys play in our justice system, the importance of access by attorneys to their clients, and the paramount need to keep correction staff and inmates safe," said Secretary



Bennett. "I would like to thank the Massachusetts Bar Association and the Committee for Public Counsel Services for their thoughtful input."

"The new policy indicates that the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security has made this issue a priority and the new procedures ensure the personal privacy of attorneys while also affording DOC staff assurance of their safety," said Marsha V. Kazarosian, president of the Massachusetts Bar Association.

Under the new policy, subsequent to a metal detector indicating the presence of a metal object, correction officers cannot subject an attorney to a pat down search unless other factors suggest the presence of contraband, the attorney consents, and prior approval is given by a superior officer. An attorney who does not consent to a further search will nevertheless be granted a non-contact visit with his or her client.



Anne Knowles
ANDOVER COLUMNIST

Anne's Andover Notebook

Celebrate the long awaited return of summer. Andover's Farmer's Market is in full swing. The Farmer's Market is open Saturday from 10am to 2pm at 97 Main Street, Andover. Free parking is available at the Village Square parking lot, 89 Main Street during Farmer Market hours.

The Andover's Farmer market website is available with information on the vendors that will be a part of the market this year. Many of the vendors have a website that gives the consumer information on their produce, crafts and merchandise. Reading about the vendors is very interesting. The Andover area is fortunate to have so many special businesses that can offer a variety of items to the visitors of the Farmer's Market.

The Senior Center at Punchard is in full gear for a great fun filled summer. Day trips, daily social activities, variety of interesting programs, lunch at the center, and the opportunity to meet people.

The Center at Punchard, located at 30 Whittier Court, is engaged in many programs for seniors. A visit to their website at andoverseniorcenter.org/programsactivities, allows a complete review for the many opportunities open to seniors.

One of the discussions of interest to seniors is "Protecting Yourself from Scams and Swindles". Many seniors find that they are "receiving phone calls for all kinds of solicitations, some might be legitimate, others fraudulent. The Center, in concert with the Council on Aging, has numerous helpful suggestions on their website, alerting seniors to this subject. The site will also be helpful on many more issues, especially important to Andover seniors.

The Center encourages seniors to investigate the many opportunities for a pleasant, informative and socially engaging summer.

ANDOVER YOUTH SERVICES

The Andover Youth Services (AYS) summer programs are open to students grades 6-9th grades and high school students. Another wonderful activity for Andover Youth, engaging the young people with trips, sports, learning new skills, and meeting new adventures.

This successfully operated youth program has been an important feature of Andover for twenty years. With the Cormier Youth Center on it's way to completion, the AYS, will continue to provide the youth of Andover with outstanding activities for years to come. A visit to their website at cormieryouthcenter.org will excite young and old alike with the vision for many years to come of an example of the investment the town of Andover has for its citizens.

In other activities, the reader is invited to the Memorial Hall Library, to learn about the many activities scheduled this summer for pre-school, grade school, teens and adults. A listing of all the reading groups, book clubs, social activities and special events can be found under the mhl.org website. The library is a vital participant in summer programs for all Andover residents.

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INFORMATION MEETINGS
July 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
July 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.
Tyngsborough Senior Center
180 Lakeview Ave, Tyngsborough

Applications Available at Tyngsborough Public Library
Information and Application Packages also may be obtained by
Contacting Paula Stuart, Community Development Strategies
36 Midgley Lane, Worcester, MA 01604
617-388-1331
email: paulastuart@charter.net

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

CAMARGO: FROM PAGE 5

could do after all these blessings. Fifteen years have passed since I joined, and with three tours of duty under my belt, I still feel the need to give back. The debt of gratitude I have can never be fully repaid, but maybe I can put a down payment on the hope that my example will inspire others to give back to their respective communities.

Oscar Camargo is a veteran and former candidate for State Representative. Follow him on Facebook at facebook.com/oscar.camargo or Twitter at @followcamargo

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

HAVERHILL FARMERS MARKET

Haverhill Farmers Market reopened Saturday, June 27th – More than twenty local vendors offer fresh, local and delicious products. Get your farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, delicious baked goods, meats, local wines, artisan cheeses, fresh breads, handmade soaps, doggie treats, live music, food demonstrations, and kids' activities each Saturday at the Farmer's Market. Double your dollars when you use your EBT/SNAP card at the Haverhill Farmers Market, thanks to a grant from the Essex County Community Foundation to Community Action and the Haverhill Hunger Roundtable. This grant provides more access to fresh, local foods while supporting our local farmers. For more information please visit haverhillfarmersmarket.org, or on Facebook. com/haverhillfarmersmarket, or email haverhillfarmersmarket@teamhaverhill.org.

SENATOR OFFICE HOURS - Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives' upcoming office hours to schedule an appointment, please contact her office at (617) 722-1604 or by emailing Christopher.Power@masenate.gov.

SALISBURY: Friday, July 10th between 12:30 and 1:30PM. Office hours will be held at the Salisbury Fire Department in the EOC Conference Room. HAVERHILL: Friday, July 17th between 12:30 and 1:30 PM. Office hours will be held at the Haverhill Public Library in the Milhendler Room. METHUEN: Friday, July 24th between 12:30 and 1:30 PM. Office hours will be held at the Nevins Memorial Library in the Trustee's Room.

HAVERHILL - This year, the city will receive a record amount of money, approximately $1.5 million, to pave its roads. As Haverhill prepares for its annual road paving, Mayor Fiorentini announced that the city will use a new advanced "pavement management system" to assess its roads and help to determine which roads to pave. The City of Haverhill has one of the largest landmasses of any city in the state. Haverhill has over 1,400 streets, 230 centerline miles of street.

Five years ago, the city became one of the first cities in the area to use a computerized "pavement management system" to help gather the data to determine which roads to pave. A high-technology pavement management system starts with a very low tech job, every 3 to 5 years, of having summer interns go out in physically inspect and photograph every single roadway in the city. That work was completed last summer. The data is then put into a computer system maintained at the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. Each road is evaluated and given a rating. The pavement management program allows the city to determine which roads are most in need of repair and to allocate money for preventative maintenance. The payment management system also allows the city to determine which roads can better be maintained through a preventive maintenance program with the use of such innovative techniques as crack sealing and micro-surfacing, both of which were initiated by Mayor Fiorentini to fix roads we could not afford to completely resurface. This year's evaluation indicated that the city needs approximately $22 million of work to its roadways. This does not include sidewalks, which the Mayor is having evaluated next.

AUSTIN PREP HONOR ROLE - The following students have made the fourth-quarter honor roll at Austin Preparatory School in Reading.

Dracut - Distinction - Alexis Nichols. Honors: Rebecca Lowe, Evan Zonderman. Haverhill: Honors - Laura RosadoLawrence - Honors - Elizabeth Abdoo, Crystal Arias, Tuong Tha. Methuen - Honors - Adriana Farias, Catherine Flagg, Eric Naish, Rebecca Raphael.

North Andover - Honors -Alessandra Petrozza, Stanley Alger, Christopher Applegate, Elizabeth Boucher, Lindsey D'Addario, Matthew Foulds, Salina Nihalani, Molly O'Leary, Shuruthe Raju, Margaret Raymond, Madison Rieumont, Michael Roche, Melissa Saindon, Sarah Schaller, Maya Worden. DISTINCTION: Michael Kamelle, Emily Mastrocola, Olivia Zdrojewski

CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIOLATIONS

GROVELAND – OCPF found that Denise Dembkoski, Finance Director for the Town of Groveland violated the state's campaign finance laws. A newsletter was distributed to Groveland residents with their tax bills concerning an upcoming ballot question election. Public resources may not be used to distribute even "informational" material regarding a ballot question. The subject of the review received guidance from OCPF and the matter was closed.

FALL BULB PERENNIAL SALE

The Middlesex Conservation District will be holding its annual Fall Bulb and Perennial Sale on 9/18 (3-6pm) and 9/19 (8am - noon) at its new location at Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Rd, Concord, MA. All items may be ordered in advance for best selection, through 8/31. To place an order online, visit www.middlesexconservation.org, or email middlesexconservation@yahoo.com to receive a printed copy of our catalog. Items for sale include tulips, daffodils, specialty bulbs and perennials; all proceeds benefit our environmental programs.

BIKE FUNDRAISER - Calling all bike riders and fans of the rail trails! Coastal Trails Coalition invites riders and volunteers to participate in the Slow Bike Race fundraiser on July 29th. A special "Thank You" to our lead sponsor, Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank. In this fun event, the "race" course is a mere 20-yards long and the last rider across the finish line wins. Held on the Wednesday of Yankee Homecoming week, competition begins at 6pm on Pleasant St. at Brown Square in Newburyport. Many prizes will awarded at the event including last-place winner, creative costume, highest fundraiser, VIP last-place winner, and new for this year, best cheering section. Volunteer judges will be on hand to make sure riders' feet do not touch the ground! Loaner bikes will be available and the entry fee is $25. Check out the rules and download entry forms at coastaltrails.org, and please note that registration starts at 5:30 pm. For more information, contact info@coastaltrails.org.

LOWELL - FREE CONCERT

At 6:30pm on Friday, July 17th, the UMass Lowell Mary Jo Leahey Symphonic Band Camp will host a free concert at UMass Lowell's Durgin Hall. The concert is the culmination of a week-long musical immersion. This year's camp, in its nineteenth summer, is open to students having just completed eighth through twelfth grades. The finale concert will feature nearly 140 musicians from across New England. Throughout the week, each student has participated in the large concert band ensemble and one or more of many small ensembles. As a part of the program, students are offered opportunities in both classical and jazz genres, and choose from a menu of electives that span a wide variety of musical interests. This year's concert will be conducted by the camp's Executive Director Debra-Nicole Huber and Daniel P. Lutz, both of UMass Lowell and will also feature a New England Premiere of Samuel Hazo's From Gold, which will be conducted by the composer himself.

Representing Methuen in this year's camp concert will be Shae Carter, Melanie Connor-Myers, Amanda Gable, Melina Gable, Michaela Kiberstis, and Liam Rademacher.

NEVINS FASHION SHOW

Mark Your Calendar for the Nevins Passion For Fashion Show. Thursday, Sept.17th at 6pm. All proceeds of this event will go to the Nevins Alzheimer's Program. Diburros, 887 Boston Rd. Haverhill. Advanced ticket sales only $50.

LIBRARY STUFF - Altitude Trampoline Park is pleased to announce its 2015 Summer Reading Rewards Program. In partnership with area public libraries, Altitude is offering free jump passes to young readers who complete their reading requirements. Nineteen public libraries in eastern Massachusetts are participating in "Spike's Reading Rewards", named in honor of the Altitude mascot. Student readers will earn a free thirty-minute jump pass to the Billerica trampoline center upon completion of their required reading. In addition to Lawrence, Spike's Reading Rewards will be offered in the following library reading programs this summer: Andover, Billerica, Bolton, Burlington, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Dunstable, Groton, Littleton, Middleton, North Reading, Newton, Reading, Stoneham, Tewksbury, Westford, Wilmington, and Woburn.

HAVERHILL, BUTTONWOODS - Two Talks in July at the Buttonwoods. CURATE YOUR OWN EXHIBIT contest winner Carol Welch will be in the John Ward House on Saturday, July 11th from 11am to 1pm to talk about her collection of 18th and 19th century lighting devices that are on display. Join her for a free tour of the John Ward house, in conjunction with 17th Century Saturdays, and learn about illuminating the darkness in a bygone era. Join us at 7pm. on Thursday, July 23rd as they welcome Tom Vartabedian to speak about his photography exhibit Armenia: A County Kaleidoscope. Mr. Vartabedian will show a 20-minute video and give a brief talk about this exhibit and his photography. After the talk, light refreshments will be served. These talks are FREE and open to the public. The Buttonwoods Museum is located at 240 Water Street, Haverhill, MA. For more information, see our website www.buttonwoods.org of email us at info@buttonwoods.org.

LOWELL - CONCERTS ON THE ATHENIAN CORNER

Athenian Corner's Concerts on the Corner is BACK this Summer! Downtown Lowell rocks again this summer as the 6th season of Thursday Night Concerts on the Corner kicks off June 18th.

The 2015 Season begins this Thursday with Reverend J.J. & the Casual Sinners bringing their unique brand of folk & soul music to the Athenian Corner Restaurant outdoor patio area. There'll be plenty of tasty food & ice-cold beverages to welcome in the summer season and help you #PartyLikeTheGreeks. Concerts on the Corner is a popular music series featuring local musicians and bands showcasing their talents every Thursday night to appreciative audiences young and old. Special performances are also scheduled Folk Festival weekend, including the wildly popular Sunday evening Festival After Party, which helps bring Downtown Lowell's showcase weekend to a fun-filled close.

In addition, this year's lineup includes the 1st ever Greek Concert on the Corner, July 16, a night of Greek music & dancing that's sure to spill out into the parking lot. The corner of Market & Shattuck Streets will be transformed into a Greek village festival, with a Whole Lamb cooked on the spit to feed any and all comers. We hope you can join us for what promises to be a special night.

CONTINUED UNDER FREDDIE



Past District Governor Dave O'Brien, Past District Governor Jane Fanjoy, District Governor Joan Baptiste and seated James Hajjar, President of the Lawrence Lions and the newest life member Charlie Beaudette.

Charlie Beaudette Named Lifetime Lion

Charlie Beaudette, a 46 year member of the Lawrence and Methuen Lions, was recently honored by both clubs for his 46 years of service and made a lifetime member of Lions International.Charlie has served local Lions organization as a leader -President,Secretary,Treasurer and Director at the local level and Membership Chairman and Zone Chair at the district level. Charlie is well-known in local sports circles for his knowledge and loyalty to all the local high school sports teams in particular those in the baseball world. He has mentored a great number of coaches from Little League through Legion and was always available to share his love for the game with players, coaches and parents - Mr. Baseball was a description of his commitment to the game.The local Lions Clubs are proud of his accomplishments and dedication to the principles and work of Lions everywhere.

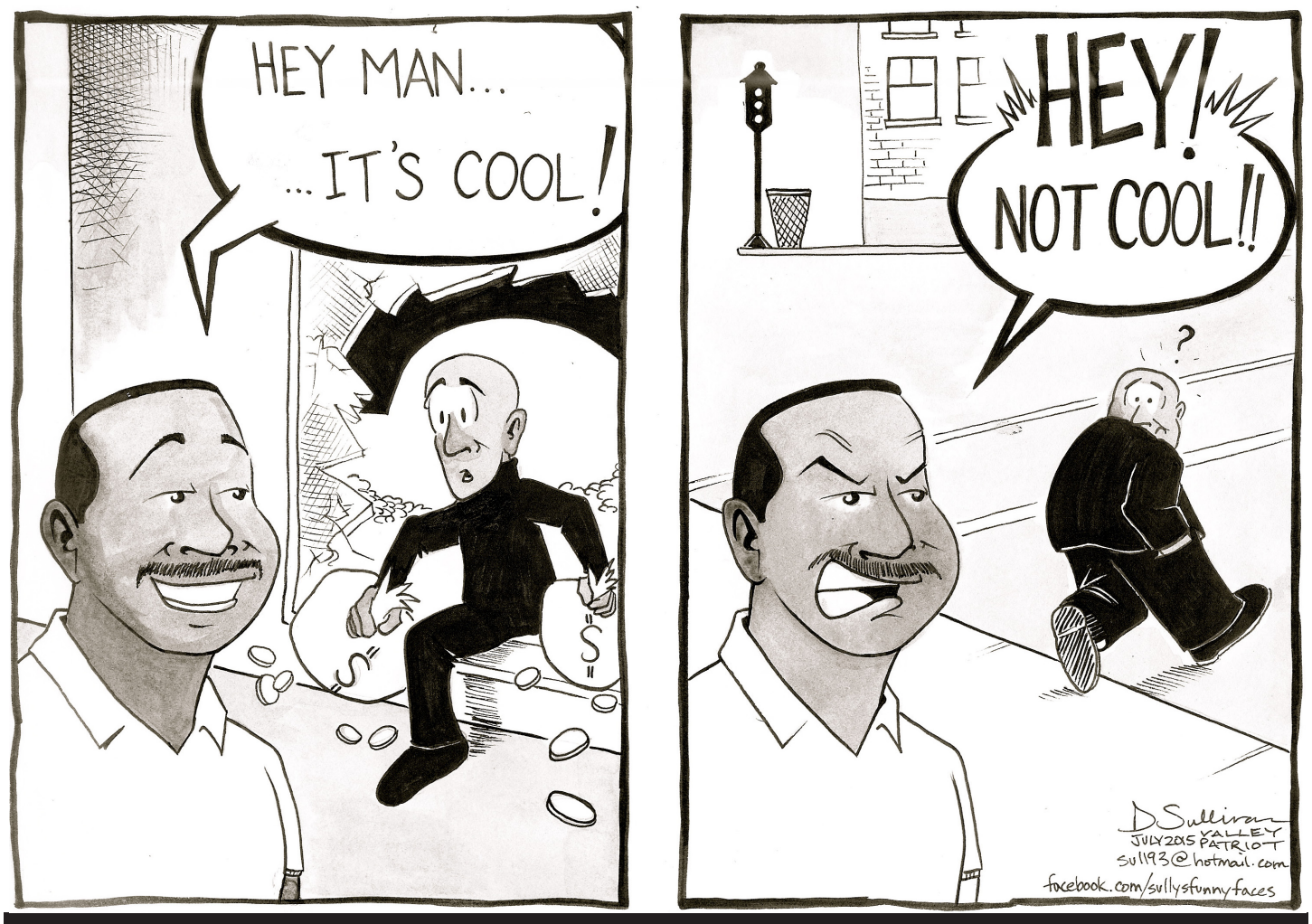




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Lantigua crony and Lawrence City Council President, Modesto Maldonado looked the other way for four years as Lawrence Mayor Lantigua ripped off the state taxpayers. But, now that his pal Willie Lantigua is no longer mayor, Maldonado, has continued Lantigua's racist game plan, and has taken at least 2 *votes of no confidence in Mayor Rivera, supports making Lawrence a "Sanctuary City" for Illegal aliens,* and championed a *recall of Mayor Dan Rivera*. Lawrence residents have a chance to get rid of Maldonado in November. SEE PAGE 3!

2015 CONCERT SCHEDULE
JULY 9: CHRIS O'DONNELL
JULY 16: GREEK NIGHT W/ NICK DIAMOND
JULY 23: JOHANNAH ZACHARER
JULY 24: LOWELL JAZZ DAY CAMP (7-8PM)
CARL & DEAN (8:30-11:30PM)
JULY 25: CARL & DEAN (8:30-11:30PM)
JULY 26: REVEREND JJ & THE CASUAL SINNNERS
JULY 30: TODD ROURKE
AUG. 6: THE NEVERLY BROTHERS
AUG. 13: MARTY NESTOR & SANDY SPENCE
AUG 20: CONNIE DIAMOND & RALPH FUNARO
JAZZ ON THE ROCKS
AUG 27: DAVE WARREN & ANDY KAKNES
SEPT 3: THE BROWN BOOT BOYS
SEPT 10: CHRIS O'DONNELL
SEPT 17: MARIA THEKAEKARA
SEPT 24: JOHANNAH ZACHARER

NARRATED BOAT TOURS ON THE MERRIMACK RIVER

Sundays at 1PM, July 12th through August 30th. Reservations required: Call (978) 794-1655. Meet at the Bashara Boathouse at Riverfront State Park on Eaton St., South Lawrence. Round-trip tour lasts approximately two hours. Sunscreen, hat and windbreaker recommended, as it is an open boat. Weather permitting.

BREAD & ROSES STRIKE WALKING TOUR on Mondays at 10:30AM, with a video preview at 10AM. Join us for a walking tour focusing on sites/events of the famous "Bread & Roses Strike" of 1912. Recommended: viewing of the 20-minute video "Collective Voices" at 10:30 AM, just prior to the walk. Weather permitting.

WATERPOWER WALKING TOUR TO THE GREAT STONE DAM

Tuesdays at 11AM. Join us for a walking tour of Lawrence's historic mill and canal district. Meet in the lobby of the Visitors Center at 1 Jackson Street. Visitors will learn about the former textile mills and their waterpower system. Weather permitting.

GATEWAY TO LAWRENCE WALKING TOUR

Alternate Wednesdays at 10AM., beginning June 24th. Join us for a walking tour of the Gateway District, and learn about its revitalization and transformation as the city's entryway. Meet in the lobby of the Visitors Center at 1 Jackson Street. Weather permitting.

ROBERT FROST WALKING TOUR

Alternate Wednesdays at 10AM, beginning July 1st. Join us for a walking tour of downtown Lawrence highlighting sites that were important in the life of poet Robert Frost. Meet in the lobby of the Visitors Center at 1 Jackson Street. Weather permitting.

MONUMENTS AND MARTYRS WALKING TOUR OF THE COMMON

Thursdays at 11AM. Learn about a variety of monuments and markers dedicated to Lawrencians who fought for their country in various wars. Weather permitting. Most appropriate for twelve years of age through adult.

NOTE: These walking tours, which are all a distance of one-half mile round-trip and last approximately 90 minutes, as well as indoor-guided tours of the exhibits in the Visitors Center, are all available at other times. Reservations recommended for groups. Call 978-794-1655.

Methuen Senior Graduates from the Academy of Notre Dame

The Academy of Notre Dame held it's 161st Commencement Exercise on May 30th where 51 students received their diplomas from the private, all-girls Catholic high school in Tyngsboro. Among the graduates was Yili Yong of Methuen, MA who will be attending the University of Kansas this upcoming fall.

Collectively, the Academy's Class of 2015 earned more than $9.4 million in four-year renewable, merit-based college scholarships including three full-scholarship awardees and 30 half-tuition scholarships. They were accepted at more than 140 colleges and universities across the U.S. and Canada. More than half of the graduates will be pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) related fields of study.



Methuen resident Yili Yong, a recent graduate of the Academy of Notre Dame is pictured in her senior photo.





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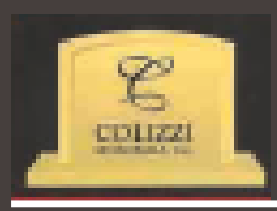
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Feds Mandate School Lunch Increase for Methuen

By D.J. Deeb, M.A., M.S., M.Ed.
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE



June proved to be a busy and interesting month for Methuen Public Schools. The Federal Government is once again meddling in our schools through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) by requiring that school lunch prices be increased.

First off, Congratulations to the Class of 2015 who had a very successful commencement ceremony at the Tsongas Arena on June 6th and to all of Methuen's students for completing another successful School Year in 2014-2015.

At our June 8th School Committee meeting, members were presented with a proposal to raise school lunches by .05 cents for the 2015-2016 School Year in order to meet a Price Equity Mandate by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Although I stood alone on this issue I proudly voted against this increase, not because it is not needed, but because I do not believe that we should be given a mandate by the USDA. At the meeting I stated, "I do believe that if we should vote on a price that we should be ones to set the price." The School Committee is not a rubber stamp for Federal mandates. If it is required why vote on it?

This is in no way a criticism of our outstanding Food Service Staff at Methuen Public Schools. These individuals do a great job serving and meeting the needs of Methuen's students.

I refuse to go along with the USDA mandate first off because I do not believe that the USDA or the National School Lunch Program should exist. We can save taxpayers over $156 Billion per year by eliminating this wasteful Federal agency. I oppose and have always opposed any federal subsidies or regulations on local schools or educational programs. I favor local control!

I want to remind parents and students that Methuen Public Schools will begin before Labor Day in 2015-2016. Labor Day is late this year and falls on Monday, September 7th. It has thus been decided that Methuen Public Schools will reopen for faculty and staff on Monday, August 31st and for students on Tuesday, September 1st. Staff and student will have an extra long weekend in order to wrap-up Summer by having Friday, September 4th off. Those three days prior will allow teachers to distribute books and materials, review protocols, and send home papers to be signed. Staff and students can then hit the ground running when they return from the long Labor Day Weekend break on Tuesday, September 8th. With this calendar, the 180th Instructional Day will be Wednesday, June 15th and the 185th Instructional Day (if all snow days are used) will be Wednesday, June 20th. This affords plenty of extra time in planning for snow days if next winter proves to be similar to the one we just had. Let's certainly hope that is not the case and everyone gets out on June 15th.

Have a great Summer!

D.J. Deeb is a Methuen resident and member of the Methuen School Committee. Deeb is an Adjunct Professor of History/ Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He teaches Social Studies full-time at Reading Memorial High School. He is the author of Israel, Palestine, and the Quest for Middle East Peace (University Press, 2013) and The Collapse of Middle East Peace (IUniverse, 2003).

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Karen Hayden, Director, Methuen TV, State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell, with Tom and Fran Gradzewicz

Fran Gradzewicz Cites Personal Story in Testimony on End of Life Care

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Francis "Fran" Gradzewicz, longtime resident of Methuen, was joined by her husband Thomas, her daughter Karen Hayden, and myself, as they brought their case regarding the lack of clarity in current law governing end-of-life medical care to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. Fran testified in front of the Committee with both clarity and strong conviction.

While Massachusetts law allows for individuals or their guardians to sign "do-not-resuscitate" orders, the current law is written in such a way that it is not required to be honored.

Fran Gradzewicz experienced how this ambiguity could create unneeded suffering and stress for both patients and families. Patsy, Fran's sister, was born with Down Syndrome, and came under Fran's guardianship. As Fran notes in her testimony, (provided below), Patsy was terrified by doctors and hospitals, so when Patsy started to experience symptoms of Alzheimer's she signed a DNR order.

That DNR order, even though properly executed and upheld by a Judge the next day in court, was not respected by the hospital in which Patsy was taken leading to significant suffering for Patsy, Fran, and their family.

Fran wants to ensure that other families do not suffer the same fate and worked with me to introduce legislation, House Bill 1221: An Act Relative to Do-Not-Resuscitate Orders, which requires that the legal wishes of individuals be honored in their end-of-life care. The legislation is co-sponsored by Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives.

As Fran points out, "this issue is important for the reason that anyone could be put in a similar position with a family member or loved one."

Clearly, this issue is complex legally and ethically, however, many experts in the medical teaching community in Boston and in our academic institutions are discussing this issue. Currently, there is great interest in this issue, as there are many cost implications.

A solution to this problem will need the support of primary care physicians, our teaching hospitals, an increased emphasis on electronic medical records, and perhaps a more in depth DNR document. All of these conversations are underway in the medical and academic communities. This is first step and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to develop a comprehensive approach to this important issue.

Fran Gradzewicz's testimony:

Dear House Chairman, John V. Fernandes Dear Senate Chairman, William N. Brownsberger and Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Re: H.1221

My name is Frances Gradzewicz. I am one of the petitioners for the adoptionof bill H.1221, relative to Do-Not-Resuscitate orders.

I would like to tell you my personal experience with the present DNR/DNIdirectives. My sister, Patsy, was born with Down's Syndrome. I became her guardian after the death of our mother. She began to exhibit symptoms of Alzheimer's five

DIGNITY: PAGE 31

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Lee Fickenworth Among Massachusetts 86 Unsung Heroines Honored at The State House

Lee Fickenworth of Lawrence was honored Wednesday at the State House as a member of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women's 2015 class of Unsung Heroines.

Sen. Barbara L'Italien recommended Fickenworth in recognition of her efforts organizing an annual vigil and day of remembrance in the fall for murdered Lawrence residents.

Fickenworth, whose son, Gabriel Gonzalez, 18, was murdered in June 2009 on Exeter Street, organized the first day of remembrance this past September with help from a committee of 16 other volunteers, some of whom also lost loved ones to violence.

"Lee is a tireless volunteer who cares deeply about her community and is certainly doing her part to make Lawrence better," Sen. L'Italien said. "It was a pleasure to recommend Lee as an Unsung Heroine and I'm so happy the commission agreed."

The Unsung Heroines are women who don't usually make the news, but make the difference in their communities, businesses or volunteer endeavors.

Fickenworth was one of 86 Unsung Heroines of 2015 recognized at a State House ceremony Wednesday afternoon. Hundreds of friends and family packed the hall for the ceremony, with the "Unsung Heroines" seated at the front with yellow roses pinned to their lapels. Each was asked to stand for a brief introduction by Victoria A. Budson, chairman of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

The event included a speaking program, a collective photo of all "Heroines" on the State House's Grand Staircase and a "Just Desserts" reception.

At the Lawrence vigil in September, about a 100 people gathered on Campagnone Common in downtown Lawrence. Dozens of red and black balloons were released to remember and honor the 115 men and women murdered in the city over the last 40 years. Speeches were given by family members and friends of those killed, as well as several city leaders.

"Having all these people come here and support us means everything to me," Fickenworth said at the September rally. "We all put a lot of work into this, and I'm so thankful for everyone that came."

The Merrimack Valley Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) helped Fickenworth come up with the idea for Lawrence vigil. A national organization, POMC sponsors the National Day of Remembrance on Sept. 25 each year to honor those killed by violence in the United States.

Out of the 115 victims since 1974 in Lawrence, 62 were under the age of 25-years-old, according to media reports. In a September 2014 article in the Eagle-Tribune, it was reported that 28 people have been murdered in Lawrence since 2010.

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is an independent state agency that was legislatively created in 1998 to advance women of the Commonwealth to full equity in all areas of life and to promote their rights and opportunities.

Will Lawrence Treat Illegals Better Than People From Lowell?

Kathy Runge
VALLEY PATRIOT LAWRENCE COLUMNIST



The City Council, led by Council President Maldonado, a.k.a. Lawrence's Ambassador to the UN, has been busy in the last month. The FY16 budget got approved with Maldonado providing the only dissenting vote. He proposed a series of potential cuts and argued for them while acting as president of the council, a clear violation of their own rules. Somehow he can't bring himself to give the gavel to the Council VP when he argues for or against an issue.

Mr. Maldonado has also been busy trying to ram a resolution and ordinance to help illegal immigrants through the council. On June 20 there was a gathering sponsored by the Merrimack Valley Partnership, a coalition of area churches and nonprofits, at Saint Mary's gymnasium to win the Council and Mayor's support of the Trust Act Ordinance and a resolution supporting the Safe Driving Law.

The Trust Act Ordinance prohibits Lawrence police from detaining anyone for ICE if they are arrested for a minor offense. This is the current practice of the Lawrence police. The Safe Driving Law is at the state legislature and would let illegal immigrants obtain a driver's license in Massachusetts.

Councilor Maldonado sat on the stage and spoke in support of these issues. The event consisted of testimonials from illegal immigrants regarding the hardships they endured entering and living in our country illegally followed by a summary of the laws given by Maldonado.

Most of the audience was provided by the member churches, many from outside Lawrence. The host parish brought 150 people. I think it was the host parish, but the meeting was held in Spanish. They were nice enough to offer the English speakers with translation via an earpiece, but it was still hard to decipher. In an effort to make it look like there was no opposition to these measures the meeting wasn't publicized, at least not to the English speaking community.

These two items were approved at the June 23 meeting of the Ordinance Committee and were sent up to the full council for them to call a public hearing. In the normal course of events a public hearing would have been ordered on July 7, the next scheduled meeting, and held at the meeting after that. That wasn't quick enough for Council President Maldonado, who called a special meeting for June 30 so the public hearings could be held at the July 7 meeting.

Why the rush? Both of these items are largely symbolic and certainly not emergencies, but Maldonado wanted to get them passed quickly with minimal notice. I'm guessing he wanted to include these in his list of accomplishments while on the campaign trail.

In my opinion, the Trust Ordinance is dangerous and will lead to police not detaining illegals that would otherwise be detained because of the threat of a formal complaint, which is provided for in the law. How much time and money will resolving these complaints cost the city?

If we had an ordinance forbidding the police to waste their resources investigating auto insurance fraud would we have more or less fraud in the city? What about heroin dealers?

The piece de resistance came when the notice for the public hearings illegally appeared the morning of the 30th, before the vote to call a public hearing had actually been taken. That killed the possibility of holding the hearings on July 7, so they were pushed back to the next meeting of the council, which is currently set to be August 11.

I'd like to thank candidate for Councilor At Large, Richard Russell, for pointing out the early public notice. In the interest of full disclosure I am actively supporting Russell and encourage you to give him one of your votes.

If you don't want these items to be passed, come to the public hearings on August 11th at 7 pm. There will be many people coming to testify in favor of these issues. For your voice to be heard you have to speak up.

Ironically, the Council has less sympathy for homeless people from our neighboring towns. At the meeting of June 16 the topic of out of town homeless people and panhandlers came up more than once.

Maldonado said other cities are flooding us with their homeless. Councilor Almonte made the point that the city is only 6.4 square miles. At the pro illegal immigration rally we learned that there are thousands of illegals living in Lawrence, yet a handful of poor people from neighboring towns is not acceptable. Yes, the city can only hold so many people, so if you're a homeless person from Lowell, go somewhere else. If you're an illegal immigrant, welcome.







Methuen Woman, Son, Thanks Police Officer Who Saved Her Life

Methuen resident Christine Prescott went to the Methuen police station last month to thank the officer who saved her life when her heart stopped while working out at a local fitness center.

"I had just finished my 45 minute spinning class at the gym," Prescott told The Valley Patriot. "I walked out of the room and my heart just stopped."

"I had fallen face first into a 500 pound chest press machine, resulting in a serious injury to my face. The staff at the gym attempted CPR for nearly five minutes until the police and EMTs showed up. I was dead at that point, when Officer Thomas Torrisi arrived. I was blue, and the staff had feared the worst. He administered two shocks from his department issued automated external defibrillator (AED). By the time he administered 2 shocks, the EMTs had just arrived and I was conscious and barely breathing. He saved my life."

Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon said that Torrisi was given a commendation for his actions in saving Prescott's life. "Officer Torrisi immediately went into action," Solomon said. "Utilizing his AED, which advised a shock to the patient, Officer Torrisi administered a shock. After approximately 5 minutes, the female started to cough and breathe on her own. She was subsequently transported to the hospital and has made a full recovery. In recognition of Officer Torrisi's effective use of the AED under difficult circumstances, we honor his immediate call to action, courage and life-saving skills. Officer Torrisi's outstanding performance of duty has reflected great credit upon himself and the Department.

Prescott and her 8 year old son wanted to thank Officer Torrisi for saving her life and went to the Methuen Police Station to meet him. "Two heart surgeries later and an implanted defibrillator inside my chest, I am alive, thanks to the Methuen Police and Officer Torrisi."

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COUNCILOR #5

Pay Raises and Pipelines

Dan Grayton
VALLEY PATRIOT LAWRENCE COLUMNIST

PAY RAISES FOR EMPLOYEES, PAY CUT FOR METHUEN TAXPAYERS

After a couple weeks of delay, the council passed the fiscal year 2016 municipal budget on June 29th. The $156 million dollar budget was approved on a 7-2 vote with myself and Councilor Ron Marsan voting in opposition.

The biggest topic of discussion throughout the night was the salary of city employees, or more specifically, why they were going up. The wage and salary classification, or "matrix", sets pay increases in a series of five steps. Each step represents a year of service and a pre-determined raise.

The issue during the budget debate became what happens when an employee is "maxed out" in the matrix. The solution proposed to this perceived problem is to promote or "reclassify" the employee into a higher salary class, therefore restarting the step process. This raises a question that the taxpayers deserve an answer to: is it in the best interest of the taxpayers to approve promotions and raise taxes to pay for them?

The reality is, the process works like a giant seesaw: salaries at city hall go up, and taxpayer's available income goes down. Essentially, the council cut the pay of the taxpayers of Methuen in order to give raises and promotions to city hall employees. This is wrong. Unfortunately, instead of considering raises in the context of the larger community of taxpayers, the conversation during the budget debate focused almost exclusively on whether or not the particular employee was deserving of a raise.

Since the answer to those questions is almost always "yes", the conversation fails to take into account the other part of the equation which is, "can the taxpayers afford this?" That is the question we should ask first, instead of, at best, an afterthought.

The average citizen understands that taxes may have to go up each year. What they should not accept are continued promotions and pay raises for government employees, which results in their own pay being cut. This fiscally irresponsible practice is not one that is reflective of a government that acts in the best interest of its citizens.

PIPELINE OPPOSITION

During our July 6th meeting, the city council will be considering a resolution opposing the proposed Kinder-Morgan pipeline expansion project through Methuen.

Working in conjunction with the community group "Methuen pipeline awareness", I am proud to have introduced this resolution on their behalf. The non-binding resolution is similar to resolutions passed by dozen of other communities in Western Mass, New Hampshire and the Merrimack Valley, all of which are being affected by this proposed pipeline.

The resolution before the council that night will address specific concerns raised by both councilors and numerous residents during a information meeting on the project attended by Kinder-Morgan in early June. Whether it is the safety concerns over the much larger pipe that is being proposed, or the disturbing of wetland, conservation and developed residential lands, the risks to Methuen residents and property clearly outweigh any potential future benefits.

While it is true the council ultimately has no power to stop Kinder-Morgan from proceeding with their plans, it has been proven since this project was first announced that communities standing in united opposition to the project have had successes in the proposed route bypassing their communities. The residents of Methuen spoke in nearly unanimous opposition to the pipeline at the meeting this past June, and it is my hope that the council will join them in their opposition loudly and clearly by passing this important resolution on July 6th.



Daniel Grayton is currently serving as a Councilor at-Large in the City of Methuen. He can be reached at DanielGrayton@gmail.com



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7th Grade Murder Victim Remembered 30 Years Later with Headstone



Unveiling Michelle's brand new gravestone: Barbara Winters, and her daughter, Zack Rivera (Michelle's Nephew) Ricky and Christy Rivera (Michelle's sister, Lisa Wood Henshall (Michelle's childhood friend) her husband Jack Henshall, Reverend Bob Gallagher, and Lisa's mom Shirley Wood.

When Christy Rivera and her friend Lisa Henshall called into Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan's radio show on 980WCAP a few weeks ago, they had no idea the outpouring of support they would get in their efforts to raise money for a headstone for Rivera's sister, Michelle Pimentel.

Pimentel was murdered by her stepfather in 1985, but her family didn't have any money to pay for her funeral. "We had to take up a collection and rely on donations to bury my sister," Rivera said. "But, we never raised enough money for a headstone."

Rivera said she was sickened over the years, every time she went to the cemetery where her sister was buried.

"It was like she never existed, and when I am gone, who will know where my sister is," she asked on Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan's radio program. "Who will know that the person in that unmarked grave was my sister Michelle?"

Valley Patriot readers, advertisers, and WCAP listeners immediately stepped up to the plate upon hearing the broadcast and collectively donated more than $4,000 in less than a week to buy a grave marker for Michelle.

MEMORIAL STONE UNVEILED

On Monday, July 6, 2015, Reverend Bob Gallagher of Salisbury presided over a short service for Pimentel at the Bellevue Cemetery in Lawrence, where the new gravestone was unveiled for family and friends for the first time.



"I just want to thank everyone," Rivera said wiping tears from her face.

"Everyone from the Lawrence Schools who donated, Superintendent Jeff Riley who helped raise money, all the advertisers and readers of The Valley Patriot, Johnny Tarshi of the Tarshi Law Office, and especially Mike and Candy Collizi, of Colizzi memorials who did such an amazing job designing the stone. All of you have given Michelle the remembrance she deserves and my family will never forget that."

Colizzi Memorials upgraded the stone quality that the Pimentel family had ordered once they received the donations. Colizzi also added a laser etching of a photo of Michelle at no extra cost.

Flanked by her son Zachary and her husband Ricky, Christy stood with family and friends remembering Michelle, as Reverend Gallagher lead them all in prayer.

After the service, Christy Rivera quietly lifted the cover of the gravestone and hugged her friend, Lisa Henshall. "I want to thank State Representative Diana DiZoglio for coming, and for helping," she said.

She also thanked Lawrence Superintendent of Schools Jeff Riley who was in attendance. Riley, upon learning Pimentel was a Lawrence Public School student, rallied teachers and administrators to help donate money for the cost of the headstone. "This was a student of the Lawrence Public Schools and I am more than happy to help, as were the administrators, teachers and students of the Lawrence Public Schools. But," he said seriously, "I don't want to be in any pictures and I don't want to be thanked in the paper," he said.

"Please, thank the students who collected change at school and all the people at the schools who helped make this day happen," Christy said thanking him. "Now, I know that Michelle will never be forgotten, and nobody will ever walk by this grave again wondering who is buried here," she said with a tear of joy and sadness rolling down her face. "It's still hard," she said. "But this is a good thing this really helped. I hope everyone knows how much we all appreciate this."

Students, teachers and administrators of the Tarbox, Rollins, Henessey, South Lawrence East, and other schools donated to the memorial for Michelle Pimentel. One school sent The Valley Patriot a large, sealed envelope with more than $500 in quarters, nickels, and dimes, which they had collected from family and friends.

"It's so special that the kids did that," Lisa Henshall said afterwards.



MICHELLE'S MURDER

Michelle Pimentel was murdered in 1985 when she was in the 7th grade at the Kane School (now the South Lawrence East). Her stepfather had been abusing her and family members say he had fallen in love with her. Her friend, Lisa Henshall convinced Michelle to tell school officials what was happening and when she did, she was removed from the home. Her stepfather tracked her down shortly after that and stabbed her repeatedly until she was dead. He was caught by Lawrence Police, but committed suicide before he could go to trial.

Her fellow students at the Kane School lead a procession to the cemetery where she was laid to rest in an unmarked grave until this month. Christy Rivera asked that Kane School Alum be thanked for all those who reached out and helped after all these years.

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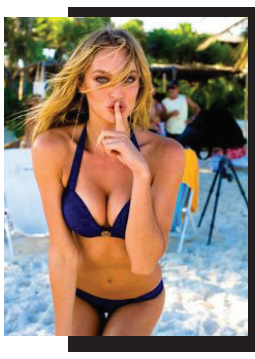


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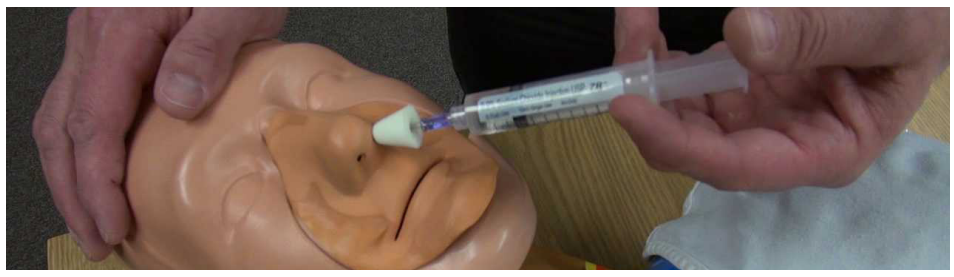
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Some Thoughts on Narcan

Justess Jacobson
MANCHESTER, NH COLUMNIST

Just recently, Governor Maggie Hassan passed a statewide bill that allowed the opiate stopping "Narcan" to be available by prescription. This law went into effect immediately. At first, I didn't know how I felt about it. On one hand, there are people overdosing on heroin/fenthynal daily (and there are many daily), and we need people to be proactive, instead of reactive. If this drug-reversing substance is now legal through prescription, heroin users will feel they can overdose, and someone can save their lives, and no lesson is learned. However, on the other hand, New Hampshire is experiencing record breaking numbers, and has officially been called an epidemic, that is not getting any better any time soon. We need to be able to save lives if we can. We need to make sure that should the situation arise, that people know how to adminster Narcan, and call 9-1-1 immediately.

After talking to a couple of doctors, and a little bit of time has passed, I think Maggie Hassan has done the right thing, but the law needs to be refined. What I mean by that is: Doctors, police officers, first responders have seen a huge increase of overdoses since the law's passing. The numbers were high already, but they just got higher. Narcan has saved lives, but it's giving an excuse for people to use, with the mentality of "If I overdose, I can save myself" This is not what the law was meant to stand for.

I have seen way too many deaths of my friends that could have been prevented. I have seen the Manchester Police Department make some incredible busts that don't even put a dent in it. I see people driving while shooting up. I see a lot of things that weren't happening when I was a kid. I think Mayor Gatsas and the MPD are doing the best they can, and trying to get more programs instated to help users and fund more rehabs, but there needs to be more. There needs to be more people standing up for those who are addicted.

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An Interview with Gov. Jim Gilmore

Homeland Security in the Hometown of a Flying Ace
PART II

Alex Talcott
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PRESIDENTS AWARD WINNER

I've heard you allude to the possibility that Edward Snowden had an above-top-secret security clearance. Any comments on the theory or practice of security clearances?

Well I hold a security clearance myself. …We have the best system in place right now to try to preserve our secrets. We have the best possible system we can have. You have to understand the two principles of national security. One is only a certain number of people who are cleared can even have the right to have access, and even they don't get it. The only thing they get is what they have a need to know.

Related question: FISA courts, what facts do people need to know about what they are before they get an opinion about whether they like them or not?

I think we are entitled to know in the clear what the conduct of the FISA courts is. If the FISA courts are issuing warrants inappropriately – without due process, without probable cause, just because they can go along easier behind closed doors without oversight – that would be wrong. I place a burden, especially on the Congress – the administration too – but the Congress, they have a duty of oversight that I think they're not doing. And I think it's because after the 9/11 attack I think there has been such a desire to tilt on the side of security that we're not doing property oversight. I think liberties demand that our elected officials do proper oversight and explain to the American people that they are. And if they're not doing it right, they ought not be reelected.

A fellow Virginia governor, Thomas Jefferson, admitted the Louisiana Purchase was a "deed beyond the Constitution." What do you think about executive power, and limits to it?

I believe in the Constitution. I think that the president can't just simply do anything that he wants to do and then rely upon a political majority in the Senate to protect him through a filibuster. Imagine on this immigration issue – even though it's a very thorny problem, and I don't have all the answers on that – but imagine all the arguments that we've been going through for years and years and years on the immigration issue. How silly of us! Who knew that all we had to do was have the president just issue an executive order and it was all resolved? Well we know that's not true.

…[A]s [Virginia's] Attorney General [1998-2002], you investigated church burnings.

I'm very proud of that. As attorney general, we had a situation in this country where suddenly there was a rising up of the attacks on African-American churches…and the more it was let alone and nobody spoke with anybody about it, the more it happened, until copycats were going on and you suddenly began to see something like that going on all the time. I was the attorney general and I thought I could do something about it. I was from Virginia, and we have a very large African-American community in Virginia. I thought they were entitled to some public leadership.

So I called all the attorneys general from across States, Republicans and Democrats, into a conference at Howard University in Washington. I asked Doug Wilder, the former governor…an African-American, to come into the conference, and we basically set down the rule and said anybody that does this is going to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It was a strong public statement. And the church burnings stopped.

As a prosecutor, supervising prosecutions of thousands of felony cases [Henrico County, Va., 1988-1994], anything that shouldn't be a felony in retrospect? Things that should have been peeled back?

Too broad a question. There may be some things that shouldn't be felonies and I think that we're entitled to a public discussion about that. But I believe in the criminal justice system of the United States. I don't think there's anything better. I don't believe in lynch mobs. I don't believe in the press deciding who's innocent and who's guilty. I believe that it's proper to have a true trial where you go through an excruciating process – and believe me, you do – you have to have probable cause. The Constitution, the Bill of Rights actually applies here, in the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments. And I've litigated on both sides of the aisle, as defense and prosecution. The courts have got to adhere to the Constitution. And they do. They do.

You have to have probable cause to get a warrant. You have to have a grand jury.

GILMORE: PAGE 32

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Long Hot Summer in Lowell

John MacDonald
VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

As summer is upon us in Lowell the hard work of those seeking elected office really begins. The hot summer days for these candidates will be filled with door knocking, long conversations and attending summer parties where Lowellians gather. Discussions for City Council candidates will be centered on the job performance of the City Manager (as always), public safety, economic development and whether the tax rate is palatable. The goal of every candidate will be to touch as many voters as possible.

The school committee race? More on this later in the column.

Unlike previous years there seems to be no major issues with the mayor or the city manager. All is calm as we enter the long summer. Crime is going down, more police are on the streets; various tools to prevent and capture criminals are being instituted and promoted by the council. The manager has set a budget that appears to be satisfactory to the majority of people. Taxes increased, but they were balanced with the actual needs of the city. The council and manager seem to be all getting along and there even seems to be some progress on the economic development front.

Challengers for city council seats will find it difficult to convince voters to put them on the council versus any incumbent. Is there a need for change? Some people always like a fresh face, but in this election cycle no one can really point to any one councilor or issue and rail against them or it. Or can they? There is still plenty of time between now and November. Is this the quiet before the storm?

Lowell School Committee. The polar opposite of the city council. Where there is calm in the council there is chaos in the school committee. Two open seats. One by a school committee member running for City Council and the other by a school committee member exhausted with the infighting. A possible third sitting school committee member may just bow out as well.

Tough teacher contract negotiations. A contentious battle over the new Superintendent of schools. A school committee that appears to genuinely not like each other. The destiny of the Lowell High School looms in the background.

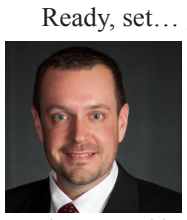
A large group of challengers are running. In this election we could see a lot of fresh faces. Challengers have a lot to offer the voters this year. Summer cookouts will have candidates in the school committee race armed with real issues to discuss and hopefully real solutions to offer.

Here are some other factors to consider as we watch both races unfold. Will we see any of the current sitting city councilors not seek re-election? If we do, will we see some undeclared candidates throw their hat into the ring? My guess is yes. Will they be familiar faces or will we see some new faces enter the political realm? Candidates entering the city council race late might have an advantage in an election cycle such as this. Why? Because there is little for voters to glom onto for excitement in a race that lacks political theater. In this scenario we could see an incumbent or two get knocked off the council. Wait and see.

What about school committee? Will we see more challengers appear? Will we see another incumbent drop out?

As a former candidate for Lowell City Council I can look back on my race, analyze those following mine and see some patterns. I can see and understand what is motivating the candidates, the challenges they face and their ability to mobilize and inspire the electorate. It will be a tough year to inspire voters to turnout, but candidates will endeavor to persevere. Lonely long hot days and evenings of walking doorstep to doorstep will dominate their time. Interrupting voter's dinner, television programs and activities will be the norm for these weary activists. The pace will exhaust some, but veterans realize the race is a marathon and not a sprint. We shall see who finishes the race or ends up lying on the side of the road.

Ready, set… go.



John MacDonald is the President/CEO of Big Decisions, LLC, which is a management consulting business that concentrates on offering strategic advice on Marketing, Public Relations, Economic/ Business Development and Social Media. John has a long career of success, achieving record results in the communications field and spending over 20 years managing marketing budgets, driving the bottom line in the financial services, restaurant, retail and real estate industries.

Could We Agree in 2016?

John MacDonald
VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

The closer we get to the Presidential election of 2016 it seems the issues that divide us are growing even deeper. Both Democrats and Republicans are running towards embracing divisive issues rather than leading us towards the issues that can unify us and that we all have in common. All I can say is that it must just be easier to divide us than it is to lead us, because all we hear is division and that's all we are offered. I'm looking for a true leader that will not only inspire us all, but will motivate elected officials in Washington, DC to make positive change as well.

I'm not sure at all anymore, what issues we agree on, but I'll take a stab at what I'd like to see offered to …"We the People". I'm going to run down a myriad of issues and will probably vote for whom ever come closest to campaigning for the issues I feel are most important and that can be accomplished.

ISIS and Islamic Terrorism – It is becoming the greatest challenge of our time. We must eliminate ISIS, be willing to speak out against evil and ask peace-loving Muslims to join us in the fight. Hitler was the greatest threat to the future of the world in World War II. ISIS is the greatest threat to our world right now and the world must unify against it and defeat ISIS at all costs. Can we all agree?

The Economy and Jobs – Can we agree that we need to reduce the national debt? Does anyone believe a debt in the trillions is sustainable? Can we agree that it's not the American pay scale and unions that have sent manufacturing jobs overseas, but rather lopsided taxes, trade agreements, and tariffs with foreign governments that have? If it weren't for NAFTA (Remember Ross Perot in 1992 and his giant sucking sound?) and other ridiculous agreements, we'd have thriving, not dwindling manufacturing in the USA. It's time for action and time to reverse this curse. It's time for our government to treat its own people, manufacturers and new manufacturers like we are the priority again. Let's build the middleclass, not squash it out of existence.

White, Black and the View of Race in America – It's evident that regardless of your point of view, whether you are white or black, that we have a problem with race relations in America. Whether you think the President has or has not handled the issue of race well is a debate. The bottom line is that race relations between whites and black have gotten worse. We need to talk and fix these issues. Is the issue about opportunity? Is it the breakdown of the family in the inner cities? Is it about education? Also, the rebel flag needs to be removed from all state flags. The civil war was fought over 150 years ago and those who fought in it are long since departed. The south lost. Flags should be sent to museums and remembered as part of our history. The rebel flag shouldn't be part of our future under any circumstances, as it adds nothing positive and only divides us.

Gay Marriage – It's been a divisive issue and it's worn thin. Marriage by a municipality and or state in my opinion needs to be recognized between two individuals, regardless of sexual orientation. Gay rights are civil rights. This is America and the government has no business in the privacy of anyone's home. We are free people and we should be free to choose whom we want to marry. A man and a woman, man and a man or woman and a woman. Can we agree to let the religious (not state) sacrament of marriage be recognized and sanctioned within the walls of the individual's house of worship? Let the practices of one's church, be the individual's decision for a moral compass and be the path that the individual can take with another. Gay Americans are just as much American as straight Americans. Time to move on past this issue and let's remember we are a free country. Americans have separation of church and state for a reason. Civil recognition is not religious recognition.

Global Warning – Do you believe it or not? It's become a divisive issue that seems to pit conservatives against progressives. How about this? Even if Global Warning isn't real, why do we want to pollute the place we all live? Who wants polluted rivers, oceans and land? Does anyone want to breathe chemicals? Can we all agree, whether you believe in Global Warning or not, that it's not good to pollute our world? Can we agree that no corporation or product should have unlimited ability to pollute? Can we all agree that cleaner air is better? Even if you don't believe the polar ice caps are melting because of human pollution, could we all agree that we need to lower emissions so the soil that grows our food supply isn't saturated with acid rain?

AGREE: PAGE 19

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PrideStar EMS Donates Vehicles and Medical Supplies to Organizations in Need

David Daly, President/CEO of PrideStar EMS is proud to announce significant donations to two worthy charitable organizations. The first donation is a used ambulance. Retired ambulance number 5 is a 1998 Type III Ford E350 box style ambulance that was originally purchased by PrideStar EMS at a federal auction. The ambulance was once used as part of the space shuttle vehicle crew in Cape Canaveral, Florida. This vehicle is being donated to the Vietnam Veterans Association and will be sold at auction. The vehicle is estimated to raise between $5,000-$8,000 dollars for the organization.

The second vehicle being donated is ambulance number 35. The ambulance is a 2006 Type II Ford E350 van style ambulance with 210,000 miles. It is being donated to Community Christian Fellowship-Lawrence, which will send the vehicle to the Dominican Republic for actual service. The ambulance has an estimated value of $10,000 - $15,000 dollars. This is the second year and vehicle donated to this group. In addition to the ambulance donation, PrideStar EMS includes medical supplies with this truck. The medical supplies are estimated to be worth over $3000 dollars and to be used in the Dominican Republic.

PrideStar EMS is well known for its charitable donations, serving on non-profit boards and support of worthy organizations in the community. "I am proud that we found organizations that can actually use these vehicles. Whether it be for raising money or putting these vehicles back in service in the Dominican Republic, our donations will make a positive impact. Selling these vehicles on our own would have only made a small change to our bottom line, we have an opportunity to make a significant difference for organizations in need." said David Daly.



Lawrence School Committeeman Jim Blatchford married his girlfriend Laura Santana at Lawrence City Hall last month and asked Mayor Dan Rivera to preside over the ceremony. Rivera Married Blatchford and Santana in city council chambers Blatchford is a candidate for Lawrence City Council At-Large. He is currently on his honeymoon in Costa Rica.



Volunteers Leave American Training Homes With New Deck, New Yard, and Many Smiles

Rain or shine took on a whole new meaning late last month when Catholic HEART Workcamp volunteers arrived at American Training. The volunteers, aged 8th grade through college, arrived Monday, June 29, at four of the organization's Specialized Housing homes.

Over their four day stay, they landscaped and built a deck, and endured the famous New England weather, toughing out the heat Monday, humidity Tuesday, downpour Wednesday, and, well, enjoyed a beautiful Thursday.

"They were all so pumped to be here," said Sarah Mallett, one of ATI's residential managers, adding that she was impressed at how much enthusiasm they brought to the table each day, regardless of the weather.

The CHWC volunteers came from all over the country to do service work and engage in their mission to love, serve, and connect. And while they were at the American Training residential homes, they had the opportunity to meet and get to know Residents and Colleagues and experience the organization's signature WOW! Magic.

"I feel really accomplished and very happy that we were able to finish this," said Richard Wilson, 16, a volunteer from Glastonbury, Conn. who worked on a landscaping project. "It makes me really happy we were able to do this for the Residents and make them happy."

According to Mallett, they did just that. "Our Residents love the changes," she said, adding, "it's really been great having them here," of the volunteers.

Annie Nassis, Director of Youth Ministry at All Saints Catholic Parish in Knoxville, Tenn. and adult volunteer and chaperone, said the volunteers took something away with them too. "They're learning something they've never done before."

"I feel it was a success," said Christine Rodriguez, 15, a volunteer from Stamford, Conn. "I thought we wouldn't finish because there was so much to be done, but we believed in ourselves and we did it,"

Rodriguez's team joined another team to work on a massive project at the Grant Road home in Lawrence. There they tore up the front lawn and mulched the whole thing, planting bushes, trees, and flowers in the yard.

One Resident of the home, Alice Rodenmayer, thanked the volunteers for their work. "I love it. It looks beautiful," she said of her new front yard.

At the end of the week, on July 2nd, the CHWC volunteers left their mark behind with a new deck and stairs at American Training's Chadwick home, renovated flowerbeds at their Lovejoy home, a clean and reorganized basement at their Story Avenue home, and a beautiful new front yard at their Grant Road home. American Training left their mark on the volunteers in the form of WOW! Magic, and gave each volunteer a box lunch and a gift bag filled with goodies and snacks to take home.

Find out more about CHWC, American Training, and see pictures from the week at www.americantraininginc.com/event/chwc-wow.

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Lawrence State Representative Marcos Devers says he fully supports our efforts to strengthen the state's fake public records law. Here Devers proudly shows off his copy of the June Valley Patriot. Devers says he will vote for Senate Bill S1700 to fine pulic officials who violate the public records law.





Congratulations Logan McLennan for ending middle school with the Principal's Award for highest overall achievement, music award for chorus, highest science average, and highest Spanish average. Logan is pictured here with his dad Matt.



Newburyport's three newest police officers were sworn in last month at Northern Essex Community College. Pictured are; Officers Whitty, Cutter, & Smith pose with Newburyport Mayor Donna Holaday.



City Council At-Large candidate Rich Russell (right) was the first candidate in Lawrence to turn in his nomination papers to the city's Election Department. Lawrence City Councilor At-Large Roger Twomey has announced he will not seek reelection.



An eerie photo of Route 495 near Lowell after officials closed the north and south bound lanes of the highway to land medflight choppers after a serious accident last month. The accident caused a backup for hours during the dinner rush hour.



DJ Ricky B and Debra Luis at the "Step Up For Colleen" 5k Road race in Andover. Rick is the official DJ of the Valley Patriot Annual BASH in March.

AGREE - FROM PAGE 15

Can we all agree on just being cleaner? We have the technologies to be cleaner, let's use them. If the US leads on this, other countries that pollute without restrictions will follow.

Education – Education needs to be a major priority in this country. The quality of education to the infrastructure of our schools from K-12 needs to be addressed. We need to give our students the ability to compete globally. We need to make higher education affordable, which will give greater access to all who want it. State universities need to be capped at a price that will not bankrupt its students and our future.

Success – Can we agree to stop dumping on success and successful people? Over the past decade we have seen a trend of people resenting others for being successful or aspiring to be successful. Was it the economic meltdown or a lack of leadership that pushed us all to not want more, be more dependent on government and to not be better? Regardless, we have to change our attitude and aspire once again to do great things. We need a national challenge, whether it be fixing our infrastructure, sending a manned space craft to Mars or continuing down the path of no longer being dependent on foreign energy sources. We are the greatest country on earth and it's time to reinvigorate our patriotic pride.

Illegal Immigration – Up until the last few decades, coming to America legally was the recommended way to become a citizen. So now we have a major problem with people who have lived here for a generation that may not belong here. We have a major problem with illegals crossing the border on a daily basis. Can we agree those people aren't paying taxes? Can we agree that we, the people who are paying taxes are supporting them? Can we agree that we have to fix this issue? Can we agree that illegal immigration can't continue? Let's agree that America is a special place. Now let's come up with a solution and policy moving forward. Oh… and let's enforce the law, whatever it ends up being… this time.

Perhaps the readers of this column will agree with me or perhaps they will not. However, I'm willing to openly discuss the aforementioned issues and others in an effort to move forward. Extremists in both political parties are unwilling to discuss these issues and they want you to believe there is no room for compromise.

Prove them wrong and demand more. Demand the discussion take place and that your elected officials and those running for elected office… hear you. "We the people" can have what we want; we just have to be willing to work for it.



Ye Gay Ol' Valley

Hateful Bible Thumpers

DANI B. LANGIVEN
VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

On June 26, the Supreme Court of the United States voted that denying gays and lesbians the right to marry is unconstitutional. As expected, those of us who choose love celebrated while those who choose hate condemned the decision and spewed their hate filled rhetoric all over social media. What is laughable is that the majority of those who oppose this decision consider themselves bible following Christians. My parents were Christians. Not once did I ever hear anything hateful about anyone come out of the mouths of my parents. As true Christians they did not believe it was their job to judge. As the bible says in Luke 6:37, "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned, forgive and you will be forgiven." I saw nothing but judgment coming from those so-called Christians.

I do not believe the Christian bible is the measurement of how people should behave. It was written not by God but by men for men. There are far too many religions and too many religious texts to say that the Christian bible is THE one. For those of you who do believe that it is the moral measuring rod for all of mankind and believe it was written by God, then I have to believe that God did not intend His teachings to be a la carte. It's all or nothing.

When it comes to those who condemn the gay lifestyle, Leviticus 20:13 is always quoted. In essence it says that any man who has sexual relations with another man as he has with a woman, then the two men should be put to death. Well, a gay man would not have sexual relations with a woman, so the point is moot. Did you know that Leviticus 19:28 warns, ". . . do not tattoo your body," How many of you bible thumpers who quote 20:13 have ink? I suggest you have that removed lest the hand of God strike you down. What other sins are mentioned in Leviticus that most Christians don't follow? You will die if you have unkempt hair or tear your clothes (10:6). You will also die if you drink alcohol in holy places (10:9). Oh, oh, there goes a Sunday Mass tradition.

In Leviticus 12:2, it is said that women who give birth to a boy is unclean for seven days and must not be in the company of man and your not supposed to go to church for the next 33 days. In 12:5, it states that women who give birth to a girl is unclean for two weeks and must not be in the company of man and, in this case, stay away from Mass for 66 days. Is this biblical law being followed? For those women who had a child as a result of adultery, Jesus himself said in Revelation 2:22-23, "I will kill her children with death." This from a man/god who supposedly taught love and forgiveness freely admits that he would kill the innocent victims of someone else's sins. Birth sure does have a lot of rules according to the bible.

I heard a great deal of fearful and hateful statements after the Supreme Court's decision. What does your Christian God say about fear and hate? John 4:18 states, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." I don't believe I saw any form of pure love from those condemning gay marriage. I certainly didn't see any forgiveness. Matthew 6:15 advises, "If you do not forgive their trespasses, neither will you father forgive your trespasses." Better start forgiving the court or you bible thumping haters will not be forgiven and you'll go straight to hell with all of us gays and lesbians.

As Christians, you cannot pick and choose what biblical scripture you will and will not follow. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." How many of you have said "Damn it" or "Jesus Christ" because you were angry? Sinner! "You shall not make idols." Every Catholic church I have ever walked into has idols all over the place. Sinners! "You shall not covet." Give me a break. Everyone sees something they don't have and wants it. All Sinners!

There are many more biblical quotes I can add to this column that many of you "Christians" do not adhere to or just choose to ignore. Hiding behind and twisting the words of one's beliefs is exactly what those Muslim extremists you like to refer to as "towel heads" do to justify their violent acts against non-Muslims. And, yes, it IS the same thing. It starts with name calling, followed by a retaliatory remark. Someone then picks up a stone and throws it. This is met with the tossing of a boulder, then bullets fly, followed by missiles, ending with a bomb. As stated earlier the bible says that you shouldn't judge, or you will also be judged and yet you all judge. You're an insult to your God. You're the antithesis of all He represents. I'll meet you in hell. I hear it's nothing but a non-stop gay pride parade. Enjoy!



Dani Langevin is a teacher and has a Bachelors in Fine Art and Masters in Education. She has written four young adult novels, one of which is self-published. You can email Dani at DaniBLangevin@aol.com

Beneath the Surface

Love Loses

PAUL MURANO
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The Supreme Court ruling on "same-sex marriage" was met with proclamations of "Love wins" throughout social media. Yet, did love really win? On the contrary, love lost, and it lost in a big way. This month 239 years ago, this nation declared its independence from England, and won. In recent decades we have declared our independence from both God and human nature, and lost.

Today human nature is not only ignored, but denied - often under the guise of modern misconceptions of love and liberty. Love has turned into the "right" to take "liberty" in dominating human nature for personal pleasure. Ironically, those who fight fiercely for the "right" to dominate human nature fight just as hard against the "right" to dominate earth's nature. True to form, those who understand the importance of respecting earth's natural ecology have no problem with the polluting of women's body ecology with chemicals, hormones, and devices. Domination of ourselves and of the environment shows a lust for power, ultimately over God. Man's consent has become the final word.

When the history books are written as this stubborn adolescent era of rebellion comes to a close, it will be noted that the downfall of the United States of America is symbolized in three Supreme Court rulings: Griswold v. Connecticut, Roe v. Wade, and Obergefell v. Hodges. In order, these officially sanction the rejection of love, life, and the family. It will be noted that no nation, no matter how great, can survive a fatal attack on its foundation.

'Griswold' first established a "right" to privacy to hide from God (Gn 3:8) and to deny the total gift of self between man and woman (Gn 3:7). Inevitably following this, 'Roe' established a "right" to kill the fruit of that union that contraception did not thwart, innocent pre-born human beings. Lastly, the "right" to manipulate and abuse human nature for selfish pleasure in another form was codified this month in 'Obergefell'. The trifecta is complete: God is rejected, human nature is disregarded, and love loses.

There are many philosophies of man in the modern era that have contributed to the unsound premises of these rulings. Radical individualism and anthropological dualism top the list. Nevertheless, the dominating ideology ultimately stems from a rejection of human nature and nature's God, which means separation from Truth and Love Himself (1 Jn 4:8). This gradually causes a Babel-like confusion through politically correct concepts (Gn 11:7) transmitted through the culture molding establishments of the media and academia.

The only power in this world that stands in the way of an abusive false liberty masquerading as love is the Catholic Church; the cultural left knows it, and that is why they put out every effort to destroy her. As a response to these three moral questions the Supreme Court tackled, the Church promulgated in a timely way three papal encyclicals (official letters from the pope). Humanae Vitae (On Human Life) was written three years after 'Griswold', Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life) was penned in the aftermath of 'Roe', and Familiaris Consortio (The Family in the Modern World) was promulgated in anticipation of 'Obergefell'. Although they garnered little secular press, these three documents stand as the only real dams keeping the floodgates of lies and death from completely permeating the contemporary world.

Humanae Vitae, whose 47th anniversary is this month, clarifies simply but profoundly the reasons why attempting to separate union from procreation (i.e. love from life), shuts out both. (http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html). Evangelium Vitae reminds us of the sacred invaluable gift that human life is from conception to natural death, transcending any political category of liberal or conservative by pointing out the equal dignity of all human beings, and the need to protect the most vulnerable. (http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html). Familiaris Consortio elucidates the meaning of family as a communion of persons, reflecting God Himself who is an eternal Trinity of Persons. Persons are made for relationship, and the love that proceeds from the father and the mother is the child, concretely reflecting the nature of God Who Is Trinitarian Love. (http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio.html).

This trio of judicial rulings symbolizing the lie that pollution and domination of our nature can be considered love, is now complete. It is now up to individual men and women of good will to stand against this cultural deception and defend love. Love does not dominate for selfish gain, but respects the nature of the other in their maleness or femaleness, ordered to mutual self donation of life-giving love. On the contrary, it is power, lust and domination, unleashed in original sin, that stifles love and kills life. If we surrender and capitulate now to the established lie that people should act upon their disordered desires for selfish gain, two things are certain: Love loses, and we lose.



Paul Murano teaches philosophy and ethics at North Shore Community College, hosts Beneath the Surface radio show Monday nights 9-11pm on 980 WCAP, has a Tv show on Burlington Cable Access, and co-hosts the Paying Attention! radio program with Tom Duggan. Paul is also chairman of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help in Burlington and is a singer/songwriter/musician. Email Paul at PJDM@aol.com.

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Cape Wind Project: A Tale of Crony Environmentalism

Part 3 - Kennedys and Indians

Christine Morabito
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Supporters of Cape Wind desperately want you to believe that those opposed to the massive offshore industrial project are afflicted with the "not in my backyard" (NIMBY) syndrome. This conjures up images of affluent, elitist Cape Coders, who cannot bear to have their precious views spoiled by unsightly turbines. If you believed that, you could easily dismiss the otherwise legitimate public safety and environmental concerns.

It is true that members of the Kennedy clan, whose family compound is on Cape Cod, have harshly criticized the project, but for reasons far beyond NIMBY. The late Senator Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy was appalled by the way the federal government rolled out the red carpet for a wealthy private developer and ignored the rights of the people. Regulations were bypassed, policies were waived and sweetheart deals were made, leaving taxpayers to pay dearly.

Although I have not always been a fan, I am told Senator Kennedy's constituent services were second to none. He will forever be remembered as a champion of the Cape Cod area Indian tribes, whose rights are being trampled in this unholy mess, and of the fishermen, who fear for their very livelihoods, should Cape Wind ever become a reality.

Senator Kennedy spoke on the floor of the U.S. Senate on May 9, 2006 regarding the proposed wind project. He accused the developer of "bypassing the federal process" that would apply to "all other offshore wind energy projects." Kennedy warned, "… this project has the potential to cause havoc with the fisheries, environment, marine navigation, and aviation in Nantucket Sound …." He added, "The project will require laying more than 100 miles of cable by plowing into the seabed, driving the bases of its 130 turbines deep into the seabed, and performing dredging in areas too shallow to currently accommodate the work boats needed for construction of the turbines. Destruction of fish habitat is unavoidable."

Greenpeace, an unwitting supporter of the industrial project, seemingly unconcerned with the lack of data regarding its impact on marine life, launched an anti-Kennedy, pro-Cape Wind ad campaign. It seems their political agenda trumps the welfare of the whales and other marine animals they claim to represent.

Environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy, (Ted's brother) wrote an op-ed in the New York Times blasting Cape Wind ("An Ill wind off Cape Cod," December 16, 2005). "The turbines will be perilously close to the main navigation channels for cargo ships, ferries and fishing boats. The risk of collisions with the towers would increase during the fogs and storms for which the area is famous." Appealing to Greenpeace and Massachusetts Audubon Society, Kennedy said, "The worst trap that environmentalists can fall into is the conviction that the only wilderness worth preserving is in the Rocky Mountains or Alaska. To the contrary, our most important wildernesses are those that are closest to our densest population centers, like Nantucket Sound."

Breaking with family tradition, Congressman Joseph Kennedy III, who replaced Barney Frank in 2013, was, at that time, supportive of the wind farm. I reached out to his office for a current statement, but my message was never returned. So much for constituent services.

Historically, politicians have spared no taxpayer expense for risky green investments. Cape Wind promises to be in good company with other green failures like Solyndra, the ill-fated solar startup that cheated taxpayers out of $535 million. It was funded with stimulus cash and given the Obama Energy Department's blessing as a political favor, despite early warning signs that it was a bad investment. The Solyndra scandal bears a striking resemblance to Cape Wind, which has earned the nickname, "Solyndra of the sea."

Unlike the apparent conflict of interest that motivated Massachusetts Audubon to become such a Cape Wind fan, it is refreshing to know that some core principles are immune to corruption. Two Cape area Native American tribes rejected a million dollar offer from Cape Wind Associates, LLC, and are now suing the federal government for violating their cultural and religious beliefs.

The Mashpee Wampanoag and Aquinnah Wampanoag, both federally recognized tribes, are members of the Great Nation of Wampanoag People,

CAPE WIND: PAGE 26

Protecting Our Communities in the Age of Fracking Gas

IN YOUR CORNER WITH SENATOR KATY IVES

In June, I attended the Methuen City Council's special meeting where Kinder Morgan, a Houston-based energy infrastructure company, presented their plan for a proposed natural gas pipeline that would travel through Methuen, Massachusetts.

I joined Representative Linda Dean Campbell and concerned residents to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting. Thoughtful inquiries and remarks were offered by members of the Council and residents in attendance. They presented a number of outstanding safety, environmental, and property impact concerns. During my remarks, I urged residents to remain engaged throughout this process and highlighted how similar opposition from other Massachusetts communities has led Kinder Morgan to alter their proposed routes. I am not in support of the proposal for multiple reasons, including safety and construction concerns, environmental impacts and transparency issues.

The pipeline proposed would transport what is called "fracked gas" through the City of Methuen. Fracked gas is natural gas removed from rocks by a fracturing process which injects chemicals deep into the ground. Hydraulic fracking fractures rock by the use of a pressurized liquid comprised of water and chemicals and is injected into land borings so gas migrates into the well. This process intensely uses water to the rate of 1.2-3.5 million gallons of water per well, diverting water from other human demands. Fracking subjects people to pollution exposure through surface spills, air pollution, the migration of gases to the surface and contaminated water. Fracked gas has been promoted as a method for supplying cheap and ample natural gas, but the environmental costs are very high. As such, I have also filed two pieces of legislation that would ban hydraulic fracturing in Massachusetts: Senate Bill 450, An Act Preventing the Disposal of Hydraulic Fracturing Wastewater and Senate Bill 1781, An Act to Regulate Hydraulic Fracturing. Senate Bill 450 defines hydraulic fracturing and prohibits any person in Massachusetts from being permitted to collect, store, dispose of, or treat wastewater from hydraulic fracturing. Senate Bill 1781 also defines hydraulic fracturing, as well as class II injection wells and toxic chemicals. It prohibits class II injection wells in connection with hydraulic fracturing and prohibits the use of toxic chemicals in connection with the extraction of natural gas.

The chemicals used for fracking are a slurry of elements which include water, proponents such as silica, and chemical additives. Of the 2500 hydraulic fracturing products in the industry, 650 contain chemicals categorized as known or possible human carcinogens. Over 200 of these products have components listed as a "trade secret" on their OSHA material safety data sheets. Slurry pools often sit in close proximity to the site and are an additional threat to our natural resources. In Dimock, Pennsylvania, it has been estimated that one gas company has spent upwards of $109,000 for methane removal systems for 14 households that were affected by natural gas seepage into their drinking water. An additional $193,000 was spent by the company on potable replacement water for residents in the affected areas over the course of two years.

In 2004, an accident at a hydraulic fracturing well in Colorado caused seepage of natural gas into the West Divide Creek, a major watershed for the county. Two years after the initial accident, the company reported paying upwards of $350,000 to replace residential water in a two mile radius of the site.

The quality of our drinking water is of major importance. Many residents in the state use well water, while others use municipal or state water supplies—all vulnerable to chemical pollution. Although there are limited deposits of natural gas in Massachusetts which could be extracted through the fracking process, our state is in close proximity to states in the midst of an unfortunate fracking boom and we need to take measures to discourage industry creep into Massachusetts.

I filed this legislation because it's more environmentally and fiscally prudent to address the matter of fracking now – before we have to respond to proposals. A June 2012 US Geological Survey study indicated the existence of natural gas, accessible through the fracking process, under segments of our Pioneer Valley. Where these reserves are smaller than those currently being extracted in other states, Massachusetts will inevitably be vulnerable to fracking when those larger reserves are depleted. Preventing the destruction of our quality drinking water is a great deal less costly than spending public monies on cleaning contaminated land and water, or having to build and retrofit water plants to serve residents who can no longer use their well water.

It is also important to include with a ban on fracking, a ban on fracking chemicals being stored or deposited in Massachusetts. We cannot prevent the migration of pollution from fracking into Massachusetts waters, but we can ban fracking and the storage of fracking chemicals in our state.

We have heard the pitch from this relatively new and burgeoning industry - that the benefits of cheaper natural gas and energy independence outweigh the risks and costs of fracking. However, I contend that if we poison our valuable and finite water supply, we are simply shifting to a new problem of no longer having affordable drinking water and water independence. We can do better and this legislation takes the bold action necessary to settle this question in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts can be a leader on this matter so that other states will take similar action. Presently, New York State has banned the practice of fracking to extract natural gas because of the serious environmental degradation and poisoned drinking water experienced in that state. Massachusetts drinking water is a public resource our state has heavily invested in to maintain high water quality standards and we as residents have the right to protect that. It's important to the health and well-being of our families, as well as our state and local economy.

Kinder Morgan will be submitting their completed application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at the end of this year.

Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives can be reached at Kathleen.OConnorIves@masenate.gov

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Harrington Admits Town Violating Permanent Public Records Laws

Secretary of State Galvin Again Orders Harrington to Release the Public Records

Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington has once again violated state laws governing public records. This time, laws governing the retention of public records as part of a lawsuit. The lawsuit in question was filed by the Tomaselli sisters.

Harrington is claiming that permanent documents being sought by Gracemarie and Joyce Tomaselli (relevant to their suit) do not exist. But that's not what Harrington's DPW Director said in court during the first phases of the Tomaselli suit, when he declared that the "town had reviewed the public records".

In a letter to Secretary Galvin, Harrington stated "[t]he Town does not have records responsive to the December 23, 2014 request of Gracemarie and Joyce Tomaselli."

"If they don't have the records," Joyce Tomaselli asked, "why don't they? If they had the records to review in court why don't they have them now? What happened to them? Were they destroyed? Why isn't the Town Manager required to provide an answer as to what happened to these records when the state laws say they must be maintained?"

The state's public records retention laws mandate that all records be kept if they are part of an ongoing legal matter. The sisters have filed an appeal with Secretary of State Bill Galvin's Office asking them to demand Harrington release the public records, and give an explanation as to why the Town is again in violation of a public records law.

Last month, the Tomaselli sisters requested Secretary of State Galvin's Office refer their case to the Attorney General and Inspector General to force Harrington to comply with state laws regarding public documents.

REPEAT OFFENDER

Harrington has a long history of violating the state's public records laws. Four times within the last year, Harrington has refused to release public records sought by The Valley Patriot, even after the newspaper enlisted the help of State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives. Harrington has also been ordered by Secretary Galvin to comply with the public records laws several times in the past. But, because there is no penalty for officials who willingly violate the law, Harrington remains obstinate.

ACCOUNTABLE?

To date: not one member of the Board of Selectman has held Harrington accountable for his willing violations of the law. There has not been one motion by the board demanding that he comply.

Also to date, the Daily News has concealed Harrington's misdeeds and lawbreaking. The Valley Patriot has diligently documented over the past two years a myriad of shenanigans by Harrington which the daily paper has either ignored, or covered up by promoting only Harrington's narrative on each story.

For up to the minute news updates on Salisbury and Harrington's refusal to release the public records visit valleypatriot.com

MALDONADO: FROM PAGE 3

South Common.

Worst of all is Maldonado's efforts to make Lawrence a "sanctuary city", meaning that he wants to stop the Lawrence Police from cooperating with federal immigration authorities when they arrest violent felons who are here illegally. Apparently, Maldonado doesn't care about the out of control crime problem in Lawrence. Maybe that's because he's part of it.

NO CONFIDENCE IN RIVERA

In the last two years Modesto has meddled with personnel issues at city hall, interfered with the Rivera administration at every turn, and has been cited multiple times by state officials for holding illegal meetings.

Sound familiar?

But here's the best part. With such a corrupt history as Maldonado's, he actually supported removing Mayor Rivera from office with a recall petition, and has twice voted "no confidence" in Rivera's ability to lead the city. And that kind of says it all doesn't it? Modesto Maldonado had complete confidence in Willie Lantigua and has no confidence in his successor. Maybe that's because Maldonado identifies more with Willie Lantigua than he does with Rivera. Birds of a feather, they say.

DRAIN THE SWAMP

The voters of Lawrence have a chance this year to finish the job they started in 2009, when they rejected the corruption and racism of the Lantigua political machine. It does no good to have Lantigua out of office if his puppets on the council are still causing chaos and sabotaging the Rivera administration, in the hopes Lantigua will be able to mount a come-back in two years.

Modesto Maldonado needs to meet the same fate as his puppet master Willie Lantigua. Otherwise, Lantigua will continue to control the city council behind the scenes, and Lawrence will continue to decline.

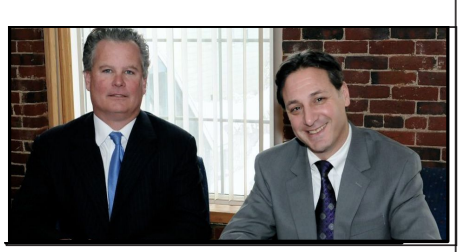


Tom Duggan is the publisher of The Valley Patriot, a former Lawrence School Committeeman, author of "Fighting Spirit", and hosts the Paying Attention! Radio Program on WCAP, 980AM, every Sat. from 10am-noon. You can email your comments to valleypatriot@aol.com .

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Christine is passionate about massage therapy and enjoys helping clients of all ages achieve and maintain a state of health and wellness. Her practice encompasses a broad range of holistic modalities that are customized for each individual, resulting in a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach to healing. In addition to specialties such as Swedish and deep tissue massage, Christine is also a Certified Polarity Therapist and has extensive training in Oncology Massage, Myofacial Release, Quantum Touch, and aromatherapy. She is particularly adept at helping those with chronic headaches/migraines and neck pain issues. When you first meet Christine at Season of Change, you will immediately feel at ease not only because of the level of professionalism and the breadth of her experience, but also most notably because of her warm smile, friendly positive attitude, sincere empathy, and compassion.

With every new patient, Christine starts with a detailed intake session to review your medical history and your specific challenges, then she develops a treatment plan to best suit your individual needs. This level of experience and personalized service sets her apart from other practitioners and is also why many of her original clients have continued to work with her for the duration of her 18 years in practice. Season of Change Massage Therapy offers a friendly, relaxed, professional setting; with a full waiting room, private restroom and changing facilities, full handicapped access and ample off-street parking. The office is located in the Forrester Street Professional Building, 37-1/2 Forrester Street, 2nd Floor, Newburyport, MA. Hours are flexible and by appointment only, with early morning (pre-workday) and lunch break availability. Call her today and enjoy the relaxation of a fantastic massage! To schedule an appointment, please call Christine at 978-465-6847 or 978-314-2463.

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Maudslay Arts Center Summer Concert Series: Maudslay Arts Center Summer Concert Series July 11, 2015 at 95 Curzon Mill Road, Maudslay State Park, Newburyport, MA, 01950 for more information please go to www.maudslayartscenter.org

Kitchen Tours in Newburyport: 15th Annual Newburyport Kitchen Tour July 25, 2015 11:00-4:00 The tour celebrates

NEWBURYPORT: PAGE 28

Gloucester's Angels Program

Joe D'Amore
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST



Angels are descending on the city of Gloucester through an innovative program proposed by Police Chief Leonard Campanello to help people battling opiate addiction. These angels don't have wings but they have some training, knowledge and an abundance of compassion to be at-the-ready for when an addicted person surrenders their drugs and paraphernalia at the local police department, and is promptly whisked away to be processed for detox treatment, rather than being booked for a crime. The Gloucester Police's "Angels Program's" cornerstone are the volunteers who could be called at any hour of the day or night to meet an addict at the police station and shadow and guide them through the processing for treatment.

This program will dovetail well with a hastily convened, but promising network of support facilities and organizations such as the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative Action, Inc., local pharmacies who will provide ready-access to the anti-overdose drug Narcan and Lahey Health, Addison Gilbert Hospital and other health-care and rehab programs that will deliver a dedicated cadre of "angels".

Undoubtedly, lives will be saved; but despite that it's popularly, the results may be disappointing unless several things evolve from this highly localized and legally-experimental initiative. The state legislature needs to grapple with and successfully overcome many legal challenges, related to this program by carefully implementing thoughtful legislation to help foster this program. First and foremost there must be safe-guards to prevent the program from being a mechanism for dedicated criminals to escape the criminal justice system from feigning a desire to become "drug-free" to, when only after, to return to a life of crime associated with drug abuse. Another concern is to build assurances for those who can be rehabilitated are giving a real chance. For example, there is already the

ANGELS: PAGE 32

Measuring Success God's Way!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

I Like Being a Sheep!

There are numerous aspects of how Jesus is represented in the Bible and the one we are visiting in this column is Jesus referring to himself as The Good Shepherd. In the Gospel of John, Chapter 10:14, "I am the good shepherd and know my sheep, and am known of mine." In verse 15 he says, "I lay down my life for the sheep." Furthermore in verse 27 Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me;"

So, if Jesus Christ takes the position as the Good Shepherd, then why wouldn't I want to be one of the sheep in his flock? He laid down his life for me! Wouldn't it be to my benefit to be in the position of being known by Him and Hearing his voice? I can't think of anything else that really matters!

Reading from the Message Bible, Colossians 1:15-20, "15 We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created.16 For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels - everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.17 He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment.18 And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.19 So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding.20 Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe - people and things, animals and atoms - get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the Cross."

Wow! After reading what we just read I am ecstatic about being a sheep of his flock because it places me in the best arrangement for being the optimum husband, father, worker and citizen I can be!

Here is a question for all of you. Does the sheep take care of the shepherd or does the shepherd take care of the sheep? You may be thinking what a silly question to ask, but really, is it?

The answer becomes very clear when we read Psalm 23:1-6, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

With Jesus as my Shepherd, I shall suffer no lack; He enables me to live without stress. He leads me and He restores my health and He gives me right standing with him! Though times for a season may get low for me, I will not be afraid because he comforts and protects me with his anointing oil from all of my enemies. His goodness and mercy hunts me down and I will live with my Lord, my Shepherd, forever!

Yes my friends, Jesus Christ is my Good Shepherd, He is my Lord and Savior!

You too are invited to be a part of His flock!

Love you all, Peter Larocque

IN THE GROOVE with Cindy Annis



For those of you who listen to 980WCAP in the evening, you may have noticed a new music show on three nights a week. The show is called Cindy's Vinyl Vault. On the show, we play the best songs from the late 40's, the 50's, 60's, and mid 70's.

Hello, my name is Cindy Annis, I'm the host of Cindy's Vinyl Vault. My radio name is Vinyl Girl, but you can call me Cindy. I'm not just the host of the show, I am a producer for numerous other shows that air on WCAP including Paying Attention with Tommy Duggan, Beneath The Surface with Paul Murano, and Hot Line with Bob LeBlanc, to name a few. Born and raised in Lowell, I attended Lowell Public Schools starting in 1991 and stayed there until 2005 when I graduated from Lowell High School. With a tremendous amount of support from my family, I went to Middlesex Community College to begin my studies in Communications. In 2011, I graduated from Middlesex receiving an Associate in Liberal Studies.

When I was young, there were three radio stations in Lowell that played oldies music. WLLH and WSSH shared their space in the "Giant Store" building and of course WCAP is the only one that is still going strong with talk, sports, and oldies in English.

My introduction to a round black thing with one groove, called a record, was when I was two years old. My brother and sister made me stop crying by playing records. They would play records for hours to keep me entertained. As I got older, I started reading sleeves and labels and took notes. Whenever I got money from a birthday or other occasion, I would spend it at record stores. We'd go to yard sales and buy boxes of records and this started my record collection.

To get the best sound quality from the older records, I clean every record I receive from a record store or yard sale. A good friend showed me that 90% rubbing alcohol and a velvet cloth can be used to remove the deep dust from a record to make them sound great, again.

I started my radio journey in 2008 as an intern at 980 WCAP. The internship was totally interactive. I wasn't just sitting reading a book, or watching a demonstration, I learned to run the technical equipment hands on with my good friend "Wireless" Mike Flynn. My early days at WCAP were very pleasant and the crew and the staff made my learning experience a success.

Cindy's Vinyl Vault isn't a one-person show, my co-host is Peter Annis. Peter is my Father. He also grew up in Lowell. Peter has a lot of personality. When he was a kid, there was music playing in the house all the time. Rock n' Roll records weren't the only source of music in his house, though. He is one of thirteen children, and everybody plays a different instrument.

Let's talk about the show for a bit. We go live every Sunday night at 10pm til midnight, Monday night 11pm til midnight, and Wednesday night 10pm til 11pm, and we will be growing as the weeks progress. Some of the artists that we play are Tommy Dorsey, Frankie Valli, Nat King Cole, and Chicago. During every show, you are invited to call in a request or dedication at 978-454-4980. Join our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cindysvinylvault.

There, you'll be able to listen to past shows commercial free. So until next month, remember it's not how old it is, it's how great it sounds.

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BABIES AND BRIEFCASES

ENTREPRENEUR'S 11 TRAITS

Cheryl Hajjar
VALLEY PATRIOT MOMMY COLUMNIST



You have made the big decision that you want to start your own business. Congratulations and let me offer up my sympathies at the same time. It's an exciting and freeing choice be in that moment. You feel independent, like you are taking charge of your life, and in some ways you are but you are also in for the biggest education of your life and also a roller coaster of ups and downs. Don't let me scare you, rather let me prepare you instead. Entrepreneurs are a different breed. Are you part of that breed? Do you possess the qualities that every successful entrepreneur has? If you identify with the likes of Steve Jobs, Warren Buffet, Martha Stewart or Sara Blakely, you might have what it takes to succeed in business. Here are 11 traits that all successful entrepreneurs possess:

1. PASSION - Passion for what your doing. Do you believe in your idea? How did you come up with it? Most business owners had a passion for the way their business was created. Either it was a family business, or the idea was created out of a need, or a personal experience. Your passion and your love for your idea is what is going to get your through the tough times because there will be more tough times than good times, at least for the first few years.

2. GUTS - If you quit your job to start your own business, consider it done. You have guts because that's a scary decision to make especially if your job was a stable and well paying one. I have known many fellow entrepreneurs' that have done just that. You look at them with admiration and bewilderment at the same time. If you have done this, you might just be crazy enough to be able to pull it off so Kudo's to you!

3. SEE THE SILVER LINING - You must possess the ability to see the silver lining in all situations. This is a must have quality. Debbie Downer didn't write Harry Potter, J.K. Rowling did while she was raising a child by herself and living on governmental benefits.

4. PERSEVERANCE - By definition means to be steadfast in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. Most people will quit when things get tough. It's easier to quit than to carry on under unfavorable conditions. If you do not have this quality, you won't survive the hard times.

5. LISTEN TO YOUR INSTINCTS - The best of business ideas were made on instinct. Its great to have advisors, but the decisions will always need to be made by you. Get used to relying on your gut feelings rather than listening to everyone and their uncle for advice. Those will be the best decisions you will ever make.

6. BE A GOOD PROBLEM SOLVER - If you find yourself always searching for answers, than this is you. As the big chief, you will constantly either be putting out fires or learning how to prevent them. When you are running a staff, there will inevitably be problems so be prepared to have the book of answers with you at all times.

7. SURROUND YOURSELF WITH GREAT MENTORS - This one I cannot stress enough to you. Find business owners that have been successful in their own businesses and have the experience that you might lack to help you. Being around your peers is essential to your success. Confiding in friends and people who have no idea what your going through or lack any experience will surely end up in disaster.

8. LEARN HOW TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS - In the start up community this is vital. Most start ups actually started sitting around a table of some sort just blurting out ideas. The late Steve Jobs said that even in the later years of Apple, his team would collaborate and work on ideas rather than him dictating as a hierarchy. Giving people in your business the ability to contribute and make decisions will not only strengthen your business but allow it to grow in ways that you could

HAJJAR: PAGE: 32

TEEN TALK WITH ANA DEBERNARDO

So Are You Open Minded or Not



Any well-mannered person living in the twenty-first century is acutely aware that when it comes to small talk, politics and religion are two topics that are strictly off-limits. When clashing opinions over these two subjects are shared, debate inevitably ensues even among the closest of friends. It could very well be said that a person's political prejudices are made more or less obvious by their preferred media outlets or choice of political candidate. Unfortunately, even universities in this country are quickly becoming another popular give-away.

Colleges in the US range from hard-core conservative to vehemently-leftwing liberal. Regardless of a school's location or even religious affiliation, most schools tend to identify with a specific political stance. Both students and faculty advocate for the need to have intellectual debate and being open to contrasting opinions, but in the end, everyone is left with a clear notion of which side is accepted and which will designate you as an outcast on campus.

The problem is that political biases may carry into the hiring process for professors, the nature of course material assigned in class, and the dogmatic way that instructors present the information to their students. Even subjects like math or science—which would seem to lie completely outside of the political realm—are being politicized by radicals. Another unfortunate result of the political networks that pervade the education system is the fact that the minority party is often simply labeled as "wrong". The handful of conservative members on liberal campuses, and contrastingly, the few liberals at conservative institutions can even be looked down upon in their own field of work.

College should be a place to learn new things and develop new mindsets, but it shouldn't be a brainwashing factory where professors manufacture cookie-cutter students through intimidation and social pressure. Students supporting the "underdog" causes shouldn't feel isolated in environments where the opposing views are often popular among the majority of students and faculty. Institutions that are fueled by narrow, one-sided viewpoints are the enemy of debate, and democratic debate should be defended unabashedly.

People talk about a better world where debate is accepted and compromise is welcomed, yet when a defender speaks out against a certain cause, mockery and/or controversy from the opposing side is sure to follow. Our media and our society are becoming increasingly sensitive towards subjects that we should be able to debate freely, without the fear of being stigmatized if we give an unpopular answer. Many people today can't speak freely without being burdened by the worry of saying something "politically incorrect" or offending a certain crowd of critics. Everyday we are seeing more and more headlines appearing to criticize people as racist, too feminist, or too religious.

In all honesty, does it really matter? If someone says something that upsets you, or God forbid, that you don't necessarily agree with, why should you let it affect you? If you know you won't be shaken in your own beliefs, why let the opinions of others bother you? Genuine intellectuals tend to be open to all the viewpoints and opinions made available to them. Claim to be one? Then you should stand by this statement.

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SHEILA'S RECIPE CORNER

SHEILA MULLINS
VALLEY PATRIOT RECIPE COLUMNIST

It's still June as I write this column. Where did June go?! This month, I have one recipe for you. Yes, I know, normally I do two.

I decided to work on a side dish. I don't often do side dishes, but I decided I needed to do one. This one is relatively simple, packed with flavour, & doesn't take terribly long to make. One part cooks while the other part cooks, that's pretty easy! I hope you enjoy this rice side dish.



SPICED BASMATI RICE
2 c basmati rice
1 c broccoli florets
1 onion, chopped
1 T oil
2 t cardamom
1.5 t fenugreek seeds
1.5 t cumin
1.5 t salt
¾ t pepper
1.4 t cayenne, optional

Cook rice cooked according to package directions. While rice is cooking, heat a pot & lightly toast the cardamom, fenugreek seeds, & cumin. Reserve. In same pot, caramelize onions in oil. When rice & onions are nearly done, place in microwave, broccoli florets & heat until al dente. Add broccoli, all spices, & onion to rice. Mix well. Adjust seasoning as necessary. Serve hot. Serves 8. This recipe can readily be halved or doubled. This also works well with brown basmati rice.

All recipes are created by Sheila Mullins & taste tested by Jerry & Sheila Mullins. Sheila lives in Newburyport & is a personal cook, among other things. She can be reached at Sheila_A_Mullins@hotmail.com & she looks forward to hearing from you.



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CAPE WIND:FROM PAGE 21

also known as "The People of the First Light." An important aspect of their spiritual and religious practices is their ability to view and experience the first light on the eastern horizon. As sovereign nations with rights secured under treaties with the United States, they were stakeholders in the Cape Wind permitting process which began in 2001. As required by law, the U.S. government must consult with sovereign nations on issues affecting them. Instead, the American Indians were disregarded.

The United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET), comprised of 25 federally recognized tribes, voiced strong objection to the wind project and called on former Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, to deny the permitting, stating it would be "in direct violation of the spirit and intent of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites, the laws of Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (AHPA)."

Salazar never got around to consulting with the tribes until February 2010, just two months before he approved Cape Wind. Salazar showed up to meet the American Indians sporting a black cowboy hat. Whether his actions stemmed from blatant stupidity, or some not-so-subtle attempt to intimidate, it was in spectacularly bad taste. The culturally sensitive Salazar said of the tribes, "We hear them loud and clear," although the majority of his time was spent mugging for the press corps cameras. It was clear the decision had already been made.

You might expect a self-identified Native American like Senator Elizabeth Warren to be supportive of Indian's rights, but you would be wrong. Warren has been beating the Cape Wind drum for years, in her characteristically shrill manner (see also: shrieking magpie). Whether or not she is actually of American Indian descent, with her influence, the tribes might have been protected. To borrow a Warren phrase, it is clear the American Indians are "being hammered."

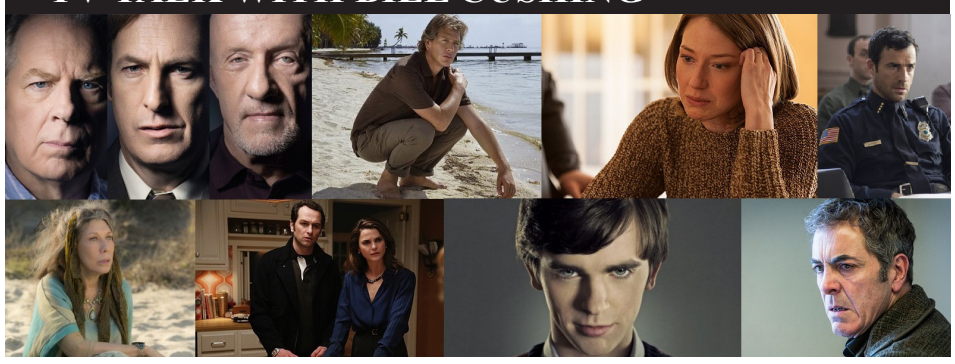
For Cape Wind enthusiasts to call this a NIMBY issue is beyond insulting. Just as frustrating is the fact that even the most serious concerns -- an estimated 6,600 bird deaths a year, potential oil spills, destruction of the marine ecosystem, and the risk of air and vessel collision, resulting in the possible loss of human life -- are all met with the same cult-like mantra - that if we do nothing, there will be catastrophic climate change, and we are all going to die.

Are we really going to allow hysteria over a hypothetical catastrophe to replace common sense? Let's hope not.



Christine Morabito is a resident of Haverhill and former President of the Greater Boston Tea Party. You can email her at christine.morabito@hotmail.com

TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING



My Emmy Wish List

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST



The Primetime Emmy nominations will be announced on July 16th and every year I like to review the past year in TV and give my list of performances and shows that I feel should be recognized by the Television Academy. Each year there are always performances that get overlooked or forgotten. Here are some that I hope get some recognition this year.

The Americans (FX) – The Americans continues to be TV's best show. It also continues to be the show, along with The Walking Dead, most criminally overlooked by the Emmy's. Not only does the series deserve an Outstanding Drama Series nomination, but its two lead actors also deserve to be recognized. Matthew Rhys and Keri Russell gave two of the best performances on TV this year and should be nominated. Rhys had a powerful scene, silently taking off his disguise to win back the trust of his fake wife Martha. The whole scene was delivered with minimal dialogue and showed what an excellent actor Rhys is. Russell gave perhaps her best work of the series in an episode where Philip and Elizabeth break into a factory to sabotage some equipment, and catch an old woman (played by Lois Smith) working late. Elizabeth forces the woman to take her own life by slowly overdosing on her own medication. Great work by Russell and Smith, in one of the seasons most riveting hours.

Jonathan Banks, Bob Odenkirk, and Michael McKean from Better Call Saul (AMC) – AMC's Breaking Bad spinoff Better Call Saul was easily the best new series of the year. Better Call Saul demonstrated that not only could it be an excellent series but that it could so without being in the shadow of its predecessor. The 3 main acting leads in the show all turned in amazing work. Bob Odenkirk as Jimmy, Jonathan Banks as Mike, and Michael McKean as Chuck were all among the best acting on TV this year and all 3 deserve to be recognized.

Ben Mendelsohn, Bloodline (Netflix) – Netflix's Bloodline was another excellent new series. It's the story of the Rayburn family, and the adult siblings whose secrets are exposed when the black sheep brother comes home. That black sheep brother, Danny, was played so perfectly by Ben Mendelsohn. Kyle Chandler may be the star of the show, but Mendelsohn steals the spotlight from him with his performance. I'd love to see the Academy give him a nod.

Lily Tomlin, Grace and Frankie (Netflix) – Netflix had another good series this year, this one was a comedy. Grace and Frankie stars Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin in the title roles as the wives of two men who leave them to get married to each other. Lily Tomlin was hilarious as Frankie, a great role for her. She deserves a nomination.

Justin Theroux & Carrie Coon, The Leftovers (HBO) – HBO's eerily strange and compelling new series The Leftovers had some really good writing and excellent acting. Justin Theroux as Kevin, and Carrie Coon as Nora really stood out among the cast. Theroux's scene in the finale where he confesses to Matt where he was during the events of October 14th and his realization that he had lost his family anyway and it was his fault was tough to watch but outstanding at the same time. Coon's performance was rock solid throughout the whole season, but it was her work in the season finale, in particular, that had me convinced that she deserved an Emmy nomination. I defy anyone to watch that episode and not feel profoundly touched when Nora discovers that her family has "returned."

James Nesbitt, The Missing (Starz) – The Missing was one of the most overlooked dramas of the year. It was the story of a husband and wife, whose vacation turns into a nightmare when their 5 year old son disappears and the 8 years that followed. Nesbitt's role as a shattered father, obsessed with finding out what happened to his son was truly heart wrenching and deserving of a nomination.

Freddie Highmore, Bates Motel (A&E) – Bates Motel's 3rd season was where we really began to see Norman's transformation start to take shape. Highmore's performance as Norman was mesmerizing to watch. As the character became more and more unstable, we were amazed at how Highmore was able to make Norman's descent into madness so sad, yet as the same time so terrifying.

Do you have any questions about TV? Email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future column.

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Healthy Body ~ Healthy Mind

Natural Immunity: The Road Less Traveled

Stephanie Jaskot
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Making the best decisions for your family isn't an easy thing to do. Questioning the 'norms' in America can cause you to be degraded and shut out by others who don't share your views. What people fail to understand, is that when it comes to our children, parents will (and should) do what they think is best regardless of what others may think.

This includes choices in what they eat, the schools they attend, friends they associate with, and yes, vaccines. Now, according to some of you, vaccines may not be comparable to the other decisions parents have to make. Why is that? Whether a child receives all of the "recommended" vaccines, refuses some, or refuses all; is solely the parent's choice to decide. We all need to work together to keep our rights of informed consent.

"Informed consent" is a patient's required consent for medical procedures, after the facts are fully explained and understanding the risks involved. If our right to refuse vaccines gets taken away, what will be next?

How Much are They Giving You?

In 1995, the "recommended" vaccine schedule for adolescents, listed on the CDC (Center for Disease Control) website, included 5 strains of 18 total vaccines. The current schedule for 2015 includes; 13 strains of 45 total vaccines. Throughout the last 20 years, 27 new vaccines were added to the recommended immunization schedule. It is not unreasonable to ask yourself, why so many? There are many concerning factors regarding vaccines, their safety and their effectiveness.

HOW IMMUNE ARE YOU?

A common misconception about vaccines is that they provide 100% immunity. Those who are vaccinated can still contract the disease they were vaccinated for, and can still pass these diseases onto others, vaccinated or not. Regardless of their reasoning, everyone should have the power of



choice, especially about medical decisions.

You DO have a choice, even though it may not seem like you do. There are exemption forms if you decide against vaccinating. Everyone should know their rights, do their own research and make the decision that is best for them.

It may seem like I am an 'anti-vaxer' or even a 'conspiracy theorist' to some, but this could not be further from the truth. I guess I can be considered 'pro-choice', believing that our freedom to choose what happens to our bodies should not be taken away. If laws are passed requiring everyone to be vaccinated, the government is taking away our basic human right to informed consent, plain and simple.

What other medical procedures will they force on us next? This is what we have to think about before making a major decision on taking away our rights. Instead of tearing each other down for our differences over these decisions, we should be having healthy discussions and standing united for one main cause: our freedom.

Name-calling and making accusations against people who share different beliefs

VACCINES: PAGE: 34

THE DOCTOR IS IN!

The Kool Aid world of Obamacare

Dr. Frank MacMillan, MD
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

The US Supreme Court recently ruled in King v. Burwell that the health insurance subsidies written into the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) not only applied to insurance exchanges run by the State, but also to exchanges run by the Federal Government. Ruling otherwise would have thrown the government into chaos and probably the economy as well.

The political trap set up by the architects of Obamacare made this law more or less bulletproof from the moment it was signed into law. The trap was so simple. Of course it would cost a lot more money to get everyone insured, though the political class kept repeating the big lie that it would cost less.

The people already with insurance were going to pay more, which was never in doubt. Subsidizing new purchasers of health insurance made it politically impossible to take away those subsidies once enough people had them. The reality is that because health insurance has become so much more expensive than even the architects of Obamacare imagined, the only possible outcome is for subsidies to continue to expand until government controls the entire economic sector.

Like many small businesses, I purchase health insurance benefits for my office employees, and we renew our contracts every year on July 1. I have been in business 11 years, and this year's 20% premium hike is the largest ever. Despite paying more, the insurance product is more restricted than ever. Higher deductibles and copayments, ever increasing premiums, and fewer choices on doctors and hospitals who are "in network", the future is here.

On the delivery side, my overhead costs have exploded. Information technology is eating up a larger and larger share of my practice revenues for products that are miserably obsolete, and would not be tolerated in any other industry. My electronic health record is on proprietary software that I am stuck with, probably forever. It is government "certified", which means that I don't take a payment penalty on my services that I perform for people with government insurance (Medicare and Medicaid), as long as I report my services in a way the government wants, and repeatedly demonstrate that I use the software "meaningfully" (also known as the meaningful use program).

The "meaningful use" rules have become so complicated that by the end of next year, it was estimated that most doctors would just stop using the program, jeopardizing many Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries' access to health care, as the already inadequate government payments would be below the cost of providing the service.

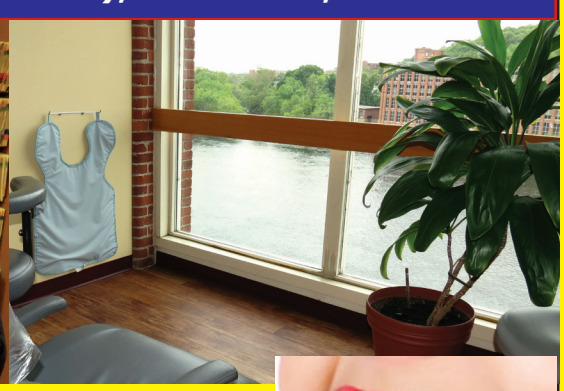
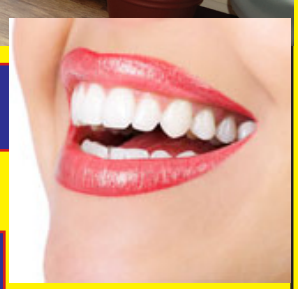
It turns out that there are only a few large national insurers remaining. They all have expertise in the private employer based market. Over the past few years, they have become more and more dependent on the Government payers. . Companies like Anthem, Aetna, Cigna, Humana, Blue Cross are in the process of massive consolidation because of the changes enacted in the Affordable Care Act. I believe that we will soon morph into a regulated utility model of insurance in the near future. The insurer will be nominally independent like the electric company, but otherwise highly regulated by government bureaucrats.

We have seen entire health systems consolidate in Massachusetts and there is more of that on the horizon. While the Attorney General stopped Partners from buying Hallmark and South Shore, still Beth Israel Deaconess and Lahey have discussed merging, and so have BMC and Tufts. They are talking because their survival depends upon them having enough market power to not be left behind, and they need to be able to spread the actuarial risk over a broad population as they are being asked to manage financial downside just like an insurance company.

The basic lessons of economics teaches us that when industries consolidate and monopolies rule, that the sacrifice we pay is higher cost, fewer goods and services, and less innovation. Unfortunately, I believe that the process in place is largely unalterable for the remainder of this generation. It will take another political revolution to undo what has been done, even though the answer is plainly staring us in the face. Do we really want our health care system run like the telephone company in the 1970s? Its time to stop drinking the kool aid.

Dr. MacMillan specializes in Gastroenterology and Liver disease and is a member of the North Andover Board of Health. Dr Macmillan was recently elected by his peers to be vice Speaker of the House of Delegates at the Massachusetts Medical Society and alternate Delegate from Massachusetts to the American Medical Association. Dr MacMillan is on staff at Holy Family Hospital Haverhill and Methuen, Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport, Lawrence General Hospital, and Parkland Hospital in Derry, NH and is the President of the Massachusetts Gastroenterology Association. Dr MacMillan also serves as Massachusetts Governor of the American College of Gastroenterology and is a Fellow of the College.

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Board of Medicine has Only Contempt for Governor Baker's Opioid Efforts

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

Governor Baker's task force recently issued its much awaited report which advocated a comprehensive approach to dealing with the state's heroin epidemic.

This report has much to appreciate within but also a few points that remain worrisome. For example the recommendation to stop asking patients in hospitals if their pain was controlled during their inpatient stay instantly raises many red flags.

But much worse than anything inside the report is the fact that the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine has nothing but utter contempt for the Governor's heartfelt initiatives on behalf of the people of this Commonwealth, the same people who fund salaries at the Board out of their hard earned income.

One of the prongs in Governor Baker's efforts is to get the cooperation of doctors and to have them be responsible in opioid prescribing. Most doctors already are part of the solution, but for those who do not care enough about the people, the taxpayer-funded Board is required to ensure laws are followed by all.

The Legislature mandated the Board to require that all physicians licensed to practice in Massachusetts should take mandated courses every 2 years on opioid prescribing in pain management. It is an absolutely compulsory requirement.

I personally have been trying to get the Board to act against Dr. Barry Levin of Emerson Hospital because I proved that he did not take the mandated course on opioid prescribing in pain management and lied under oath repeatedly about taking the course, including on his license renewal form. The Board of Medicine is not willing to act.

This is in marked contrast to other doctors who have lied on their license renewal form. Take for example the case of Dr. Richard Lipton who does not even practice in Massachusetts. Dr. Lipton sees patients only in New York but also has a Massachusetts license. The Board prosecuted him for lying on his license renewal form. (Case# 2014-019)

How much more important is it when the doctor who lied actually sees patients in Massachusetts? How much more important is it when the missing mandatory training course is in opioid prescribing?

Even after I made those points to the Board I have met only silence. Dr. Levin continues to practice here in Massachusetts untouched by this Board even after lying under oath on his license renewal form.

It gets worse.

Turns out, Dr. Levin isn't just someone who lies low and seeks the shadows. No, Dr. Levin actually serves as an official



Gov. Deval Patrick and his appointee as Chair of the Board of Medicine, Dr Sloan

expert witness for the Board of Medicine!

Happily, Dr. Levin is rewarded for supporting the Board against other doctors by being personally exempt from state law.

That really tells us all we need to know about the Board of Medicine.

So there you have it. Doctors who are 'out' with the Board are summarily thrown out of Medicine on any available pretext (like Dr. Ellen Malsky, who then hung herself the day after her 45th birthday). Mass Lawyers Weekly reported - "One of the most abusive practices of the board has been the threat to seek summary suspension — and the attendant publicity — unless the doctor voluntarily agrees to stop practicing". And for years DALA Magistrates have rubber stamped the Board's wishes through shameless verbal jujitsu.

Doctors who "make nice" and so are 'in' with the Board, like Dr. Barry Levin, are untouchable even after lying on their license renewal form and for openly treating with contempt Governor Baker's fervent efforts. Deliberately lying on the renewal form is damning and definitely a preponderance of evidence. It certainly was for Dr. Lipton.

This week the Supreme Judicial Court slapped the Board of Medicine down in a rare push for accountability (SJ-2013-419) by ruling that even the Board has to obey the Constitution.

Truth is usually stranger than fiction. The truth here is that the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine has evidenced utter contempt for not just due process as noted by even the SJC but specifically for the Governor's priorities from day one.

The undeniable truth also is that Secretary Sudders is presently not in any control of this Board, exactly like Secretary Bigby was not in any control of the Board of Pharmacy or DPH. 811 people were harmed and 64 people died on Secretary Bigby's watch.

Before a problem can be solved, it should be publicly acknowledged. The SJC has set that ball rolling. In the Valley Patriot (Jan. 2014) I have already written about the corrupt practices of James

BOARD: PAGE: 29

Governor Should Direct Opioid Abuse Policy

Joe D'Amore
GROVELAND SELECTMAN

Our state is reeling from spiraling crises in opioid addiction and the newest statistics confirm the need for a coordinated policy response from the Governor's office. The state Department of Public Health revealed the depth of the crises by reporting 1,008 overdose deaths in 2014 which compares drastically to the 668 deaths reported in 2012- up 51%; and an increase of 4.2% over 2013 with 967 deaths. Heroin is the leading culprit but there are a myriad of opioids of dangerous concoctions, many created by enterprising drug traffickers and dealers. Essex County is the epicenter for Eastern Massachusetts at 146 overdose deaths in 2014, with Haverhill and Lynn bearing the sad distinction of sponsoring a significant number of these.

The current interventions by police departments, District Attorney's office, treatment centers, advocacy groups, non-profits and churches is commendable but in the aggregate they produce an uncoordinated response that is not producing at least a slowing of the incidents of deaths and overdoses, let alone a reversal. The reason for this is that there are various philosophies in play and a lack of concentrated resources and direction to eradicate the problem adequately.

District Attorney Blodgett recently revealed in a statement that he is a proponent of drug diversion, drug courts which offer the reprieve of treatment instead of prosecution and more comprehensive sentences for traffickers and dealers. However, many police departments pursue a more parochial policy of pursuing aggressive enforcement actions to dislodge the problem from within their own city or town borders. Many proclaim at news conferences that "drug dealers are not welcome in our community ". Therefore, the result is that that both dealers and abusers are pushed away to ply their trade in communities with weaker enforcement capability. This might help the statistic of a city or town but not the overall statistics in our state. In the aggregate, the suffering is still a measurable tragedy. Furthermore, a proliferation of advocates, non-profits and intervention services pursue their own policies that range from a humanitarian outreach to limited interventions that are aimed to help many, but not many are helped completely. The typical scenario is that many Detox centers dispatch a patient after only a week and without equipping that individual to pursue a life without reliance on drugs long-term.

Our governor possesses the skills, leadership style and network of policy makers and service providers that could develop a comprehensive and coordinated standard for ensuring strong enforcement, justice and intervention capabilities that are aimed at eradicating the problem comprehensively. The overall goal is that no community should suffer the consequences of this scourge because they lack the resources that other surrounding communities may have. At the minimum, an emergency panel to review current policies, and funding mechanisms and program goals should be convened not dissimilar - in format - to the group that successfully identified the problems at the MBTA. Secondly, whether the initial report produces the need for creation of a new authority with over-reaching powers such as a Massachusetts Drug Czar or, more likely, legislation that establishes and requires localized adoption of best practices, the impact will likely produce tangible results over time.

And even though those results are simple to understand, they will be difficult to realize; but we have no recourse but to try. We owe it to those in the throes of addiction to be provided clear pathways for recovery and productive, re-assimilation into society. And we need to be more consistent in extracting through the criminal justice system abusers, dealers and traffickers who can be rehabilitated. Finally, those who fan the fires of destruction by profiting from the drug trade must be removed from our streets and neighborhoods.

NEWBURYPORT:FROM PAGE 23

its 15th year of raising funds for the PTO with a "Taste of the Port" theme where select homes on the tour will feature delicious bites from local restaurants and bakeries including Agave, Brine, Bob Lobster and more! A map included in the program brochure will indicate which homes will be serving food. All tastings from our exceptional local restaurants and bakeries are included in the price. Tickets are $30 in advance or $40 the day of the event and can be purchased at: www.Newburyport-KitchenTour.com All proceeds benefit the Newburyport public elementary schools Pre-K thru 8th grade.

Amesbury Days: Amesbury Days 2015 is ten days of fun, community-focused events and offers something for everyone: Block Party, Craft Brewfest, Classic Car Show, Giant Yard Sale, Movie in the Millyard, Lake Gardner Day and so much more! It wouldn't be Amesbury Days without the fireworks show at Woodsom Farm. This year, the fireworks will be on Friday, July 3rd so everyone can enjoy the holiday weekend. Whether you're a lifelong resident who has attended Amesbury Days festivals in years past or are new to the community we look forward to seeing you at one of the many events happening around town.

July 4th Celebration at Salisbury Beach: Spend a day at the beach! Our kid-friendly activities start at 4pm - hula-hoops, karaoke, line dancing, and sing-along with DJ Ralphie B., followed by fireworks at 10:15. Bring blankets or beach chairs and the whole family!

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MA Health Care Workers 1st in Nation to win $15 an Hour Starting Wage

Tears of joy streaked the faces of cheering home care workers assembled in their Dorchester union hall on Thursday afternoon as a decades-long struggle for recognition and a living wage culminated in a historic moment of celebration.

According to an agreement reached in contract negotiations between the 35,000 home care workers of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and the administration of recently elected Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker (R), Massachusetts Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) are poised to become the first in the nation to achieve a statewide $15 per hour starting wage.

Upon reaching the agreement, workers called off the fifteen-hour picket they had planned to begin at the Massachusetts State House on the morning of Tuesday, June 30th. Instead, caregivers are planning a celebration of this milestone and nation-leading achievement of a $15 standard at 4:00 p.m. on the State House steps the afternoon of June 30th.

"This victory, winning $15 per hour, it means we are no longer invisible," said Kindalay Cummings-Akers, a PCA from Springfield, MA. Cummings-Akers cares for a local senior and became a union activist at the onset of the campaign. She was also a member of the statewide PCA negotiating team that reached the agreement with the Baker administration. "This is a huge step forward not just for home care workers, but also toward ensuring the safety, dignity, and independence of seniors and people with disabilities," she added.

"We applaud Governor Baker for helping to forge this pathway to dignity for PCAs and the tens of thousands of Massachusetts seniors and people with disabilities who rely on quality home care services to remain in the community or in the workforce. As the senior population grows, the demand for home care services is increasing. By helping to ensure a living wage for these vital caregivers, Governor Baker is taking a critical step with us toward reducing workforce turnover and ensuring that Massachusetts families can access the quality home care they need for their loved ones."

The home care workers' journey began in 2006 when they banded together with senior and disability advocates to pass legislation giving Personal Care Attendants the right to form a union – a right they previously had been denied because of an obscure technicality in state law.

After passing the Quality Home Care Workforce Act to win that right and introduce other improvements to the home care delivery system in 2007, the PCAs voted to join 1199SEIU in 2008 through the largest union election in the history of New England. 1199SEIU is the fastest-growing and most politically active union in Massachusetts.

Prior to the legislative and organizing campaigns, PCA wages had stagnated for years at $10.84 per hour. In a series of three contracts since forming their union and through several major mobilizations, rallies, and public campaigns, the PCAs achieved a wage of $13.38 on July 1st, 2014

Last year, the Massachusetts home care workers also united with the burgeoning Fight for $15 movement and the local WageAction coalition; helping to kick off the $15 wage effort in the Bay State with rallies in Boston, Springfield, and Worcester on June 12th, 2014.

Home care workers took to the streets again on April 14th, 2015 as part of a massive Fight for $15 mobilization that drew thousands to the streets of Boston. That Boston-based action served as the kickoff for similar coordinated protests in more than 200 cities and 50 countries across the globe.

Caregivers say they are excited that the picket action they had planned for their current contract expiration date of June 30th can now serve as a celebration of this achievement and the spirit of cooperation that made it possible.

In negotiations, workers and the Baker administration reached an agreement extending the current collective bargaining agreement and establishing a commitment that all PCAs statewide will receive a starting rate of at least $15 per hour by July 1, 2018. Workers will receive an immediate .30 cent raise effective July 1, 2015, a portion of which will be paid retroactively once the contract is ratified.

A new round of discussions will then begin no later than January 1, 2016 to solidify details on the series of wage increases that will elevate PCAs to the $15 mark by the agreed upon date of July 1, 2018. Meanwhile, PCAs across the state will vote by mail ballot on ratifying the contract extension and the terms therein, including the commitment to establish a statewide minimum $15 starting rate.

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Sheriff Cousins Needs A New Approach to Opiod Addiction

Jerry Robito
FORMER CORRECTIONS OFFICER

Working in corrections for over thirty-four years, I have seen countless inmates return to jail for opiate addiction related crimes. The problem today is how little is being done to rehabilitate these inmates in hopes of them becoming successful upon their release back into the cities and towns of Essex County.

The major focus should be on the inmates that are homeless and have no family support. These are the inmates that over the years have made it very clear that they are not looking forward to their release from jail, simply because they have no place to go. These inmates should be enrolled in the drug and alcohol program at the Middleton Jail. Only after successfully completing these programs, could they be eligible for the pre-release facility known as "The Farm" in Lawrence.

Obviously jails are overcrowded and there is a need for halfway houses to reduce the amount of overcrowding, but halfway houses should be for inmates that have no family or place to go.

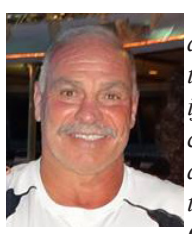
I personally know several inmates that have supportive families with suitable residence that would gladly welcome them to live at home on electronic monitoring while serving the remainder of their sentence. These inmates' work release paychecks can be placed in a savings account for after they have completed their sentence. With this money, they can get back on their feet, rent an apartment, and/or purchase a vehicle so that they can continue to work. The current practice by professional corrections staff of sending inmates out unsupervised on an electronic monitoring program to halfway houses that are located in drug infested neighborhoods such as the one on the corner of Oxford and Lowell Streets in Lawrence is not conducive to opiate rehabilitation. Recently, I was informed by a state parole officer that she pulled all of her parolees out of this halfway house due to the lack of supervision, as well as crime and drugs in the neighborhood.

I find it extremely unfortunate that inmates with family support are forced to go to these halfway houses that are owned by friends and contributors of Sheriff Cousins. These inmates have to pay rent to live there, and they receive no services other than transportation to and from work. After paying rent to live in these houses owned by Sheriff Cousins' friends, they have no money left over to help get them on their feet in order to be independent and productive members of society. I recently heard a story that was very disturbing. One of Sheriff Cousins' friends who owns a restaurant in Newburyport, suddenly decided he wanted to open a halfway house in Haverhill. This individual has no experience in the field of corrections, but does have a very successful restaurant.

My question is, are these the type of people we as citizens of Essex County want running halfway houses that house inmates in an attempt to reduce recidivism? As a result of inmates living in halfway houses that are unsupervised by corrections professionals, the cycle of crime and addiction continues once they are released. Sheriff Cousins talks about detox beds to help with the recovery process, yet he allows inmates to work in restaurants that serve alcohol, another practice which is not conducive for rehabilitation. As recently as last month, a female inmate was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance as a result of becoming highly intoxicated at a restaurant in Newburyport that is owned by a friend and contributor of Sheriff Cousins.

The Essex County Sheriff's Department needs new approaches in treating and guiding inmates with opiate and alcohol addictions once released. The Angel Program adopted by the Gloucester Police, as well as community anti-drug groups such as #TakingHaverhillBack, is a perfect example of a program that offers help without judgment. Referring inmates to these programs once they are released from jail is an important step in trying to reduce a former inmate from falling back into addiction and crime.

The most interesting aspect of working in corrections is that there is always something new to try in an attempt to reduce recidivism and improve safety for inmates, staff, and the public. The recent escape in Upstate New York should be a real eye opener to all corrections' facilities throughout the country. This incident proves that if people who do not have the proper experience and/or training are interacting with inmates, the results can be extremely negative and often dangerous results.



Jerry Robito is a retired deputy superintendent for the Essex County Sheriff's Office and was in charge of both the Middleton House of Corrections and the Lawrence CAC also known as "the Farm". He is a candidate for Sheriff in the 2016 elections against incumbent Frank Cousins. Jerryrobitoforsheriff@gmail.com

BOARD: FROM PAGE 28

Paikos at the Board of Medicine. James Paikos now is actively shielding Dr Levin from the law.

It is now up to Governor Baker to finally assert his control over this Board. Unlike the MBTA pension fund, the Board of Registration in Medicine is wholly within his direct jurisdiction and ultimately his sole responsibility.

Dr Bharani is a neurologist specialising in multiple sclerosis in the Boston area. scleroplex@gmail.com

For New K-8 Students

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8AM to 7PM
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Lower Level
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Lawrence, MA

Save time! You may complete the registration packet online at www.lawrence.k12.ma.us

Please be prepared to share the following documents for each child being registered:

- ☐ LPS Registration Packet
- ☐ Child's health records:
 - ☐ Complete immunization records
 - ☐ Copy of the most recent physical (within a year)
 - ☐ TB test with results or low risk assessment
 - ☐ Vision screening (must include Stereopsis) *Kindergarten only*
 - ☐ Lead test result *Kindergarten only*
- ☐ Original birth certificate
- ☐ Legal custody papers, if applicable
- ☐ Last report card or transfer form, if coming from another community
- ☐ I.E.P., if student received services under a Special Education Program
- ☐ I.A.P., if the student receives services under Section 504
- ☐ Proof of residency (such as electric/gas bills or mortgage bills dated within 30 days or a certified rental agreement).

Students entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2015.

Lawrence Working Families Initiative

For more information please call or visit the Lawrence Public Schools Family Resource Center
Family Resource Center - Lower Level - 60 Island Street - Lawrence - MA
(978) 975-5900



Pelletier Family Gives Powerful Testimony in Support of Justina's Law

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

Valley Patriot readers may be familiar with the 17-month-long ordeal suffered by young Justina Pelletier at the hands of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the huge effort it took from 100,000 ordinary people from across this great land who came together to finally rescue her and return her to the loving arms of her parents and sisters. The VP was present when Justina finally returned home almost exactly one year ago on June 18th, 2014.

Today, Justina's father Lou and elder sister Jennifer returned to Massachusetts to testify at a public hearing at the State House in support of House Bill 1469 – An Act called Justina's Law – filed by Marc Lombardo, Representative (R) for Billerica and supported by James Lyons, Representative (R) for Andover. Besides the members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, in attendance were also Senator Linda Dean Campbell (D) of Methuen and Keiko Orall, Representative (R) for Lakeville.

Lou and Jennifer were accompanied by Attorney Philip Moran, who ended up representing the family in court last year after Judge Joseph Johnston refused to allow the parents to be represented by the lawyer they chose – Dean Staver from Liberty Counsel.

Committee Chair Senator William Brownsberger (D) of Belmont invited testimony from Lou Pelletier who testified eloquently about the sheer horror his daughter and his family went through for 17 months at the hands of DCF and Harvard's Children's Hospital and the purgatory they were suddenly cast into by Dr. Alice Newton without any recourse. Lou also testified that the parents were stripped of their family rights because Harvard's Children's Hospital disagreed with a diagnosis made by Tufts Medical Center. The parents were condemned as abusive because they believed Tufts' diagnosis was correct and that Harvard's was incorrect. They lost their child for that effrontery.

Senator Brownsberger then invited testimony from Jennifer Pelletier who gave wrenching testimony about what her little sister went through at the hands of the Government and Harvard's Children's Hospital. Jennifer testified that she was Justina's ice skating teacher and that Justina was doing great at ice skating till she ended up at Harvard's Children's Hospital and now is unable to even stand by herself.

Representative Lyons then elicited testimony from Lou Pelletier about the actual circumstances of his daughter being taken away from her parents one Thursday afternoon and how the child did not know for 2 whole days what had happened and how she was denied her basic civil and human rights including family

JUSTINA: PAGE 32



Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice Bring Comfort to Patients

Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice is supporting the patients and families served by Merrimack Valley Hospice House with their recent purchase of recliners for each of the private suites at this specialized facility to help those nearing end of life. This gift is part of the group's first annual gift to benefit the Hospice House and the care provided by Merrimack Valley Hospice.

Funds raised by Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice House were the result of the group's successful annual "Spring has Sprung" fundraiser brunch, held each spring. This first gift by the Friends provided replacement reclining chairs to the 14 original patient suites at Merrimack Valley Hospice House, which has been providing specialized end-of-life care to patients and their families since 2009.

"Many of the members of Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice have personally experienced the physical, emotional and spiritual care of the Hospice House for someone we know and love," says Stephen Janavicus, founding Board President of the Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice. "Our first gift to the Hospice House provides a comfortable seat to relax in while surrounded by the unique and specialized care delivered there."

The Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice was created by a passionate group of individuals touched by the work of Merrimack Valley Hospice and the Merrimack Valley Hospice House. Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice is an auxiliary, all-volunteer service organization supporting Merrimack Valley Hospice's patients and their families by raising awareness and funds through yearly activities.

Membership is open to all and information is available at www.MerrimackValleyHospice.org/friends or by calling 978-552-4927.

TARSHI
LAW OFFICE
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DIGNITY: FROM PAGE 11

or six years before she died. She slowly progressed until she reached Advanced Alzheimer's, whereupon her doctor suggested I consider a DNR/DNI for her.

Patsy had always been afraid of doctors, hospitals, medical tests, etc…

Her doctor felt she was reaching the final stages of Alzheimer's and that I should prepare to protect her from unnecessary fear and distress.

My sister was brought to the hospital suffering from a viral infection. Her house manager, she lived in a group home, had the DNR/DNI with her and presented it to the ICU staff. The hospital refused to honor it. I was on my way, the house staff had called me. When I arrived, she had a breathing tube in her mouth and an IV in her arm and was very upset. I questioned the doctors in ICU relative to the DNR/DNI presented. They said, the hospital made the decision to refuse to honor it. They also told me if they hadn't been required to follow orders they would not have proceeded with extra ordinary measures e.g. breathing tube, etc…

Meanwhile, I was beside myself how to help Patsy. All she kept doing was raising her arms in supplication, as if to say, "Help me, I'm scared, Take this away". Thank God, He was looking out for her because the attorney who was her advocate at DMR had been called by staff and told what was happening. She arrived and we rushed to Lawrence Court but were too late to be heard that day.

The judge told us to come back first thing in the morning. We returned and were heard first and received a court order and rushed back to the hospital and presented it to the doctors in ICU. It was accepted and they began to remove all the tubes, IV's etc. They then began to prepare Patsy for a quiet and peaceful passing to be with her Mom and Dad.

I am petitioning the joint committee on the judiciary for everyone facing the death of a loved one. No one should go through what Patsy and I did. Present law needs to be clarified so this doesn't happen again.

Several attorneys reviewed my DNR/DNI and told me, it was properly executed and that there was no reason to refuse it. Therefore, all properly executed DNR/DNI requests by guardians of adults or minors should be honored so that people can die with dignity.

Thank you

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ANGELS: FROM PAGE 23

potential for legal wrangling since Essex District Attorney recently sounded this warning by announcing that "…an explicit promise not to charge a person who unlawfully possesses drugs may amount to a charging promise that you (Campanello/ GPD) lack legal authority to make, and on which a drug offender may not be able to rely". These issues need to be dealt with swiftly by state officials and then the program allowed to be rolled out throughout the state especially in our largest cities replete with drug activity such as Boston, Lynn, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Worcester, Fall River, New Bedford, Springfield and many other localities.

Finally, if all the angels in heaven were to join those in Gloucester and form a dedicated army of healers, the hoped-for eradication of the scourge of drug addiction will never materialize until the source of drugs is removed from our streets - the drug dealers. The success of this program, especially if expanded and amply supported by a comprehensive drug policy and a set of laws depends on a concurrent condition of eliminating easy and cheap access to opiates. If the spigot of drugs flowing is not dramatically curtailed by law-enforcement many of those who are saved by this program will simply fall into the preying hands of those who seek the destruction of others for profit. Everyone will feel good that many were saved but few will take notice that many will repeatedly cycle through the program multiple times creating static progress in defeating the epidemic of drugs.

GILMORE: FROM PAGE 16

Why? Grand juries don't do anything, right? But if you didn't have them, then you would not have that extra protection in there of citizens who would recognize a fraud or an abuse when they see it. And therefore the prosecutors don't abuse.

What are some worthwhile reforms that you have learned of through the Free Congress Foundation [Gilmore is president & CEO] when it comes to public safety? [The Foundation's website references a Healthy Communities Initiative with core urban issues of transit, education, city services, public safety, and pension reform.]

Our focus has been on the economy and national security. It's my personal experience as defense counsel, prosecutor, and attorney general that gives me that experience. My belief is that the system is just, comes out right, and that there's plenty of discretion in the system—on motions, on prosecutors, on clemency. There's plenty on prosecutorial discretion: to either bring a case or not bring a case. All those kinds of things actually put checks and balances into the system.

Other board service: the NRA board, life membership. What does that entail?

The board's there to provide guidance on the national organization. It's an organization – I believe it's an organization – that stands up for the Second Amendment. …I believe in the Second Amendment because it empowers people. It's a statement that says that you can trust individual citizens to be responsible with firearms. And that's an empowerment thing for people. It's a sense of a reaffirmation of liberty of the people, and that's what the Founding Fathers had in mind. And I think we should hold on to it and we should preserve it.

If you're a young person or adult who wants to self-educate a bit on foreign affairs and are the kind of person who doesn't know ISIL from an iPhone, where should someone start? What should they be reading?

They ought to be reading Hans Morgenthau, Politics Among Nations. They ought to be reading Henry Kissinger's book, Diplomacy. They ought to read The Guns of August, the seminal work that explained the radical moment in history when we changed from one kind of a world to another. …They ought to read Foreign Affairs magazine, all the time. They ought to read it all the time. Foreign Policy's good too, but Foreign Affairs is the seminal journal. …

[R]ead the last paragraph of Guns of August. Last paragraph [of] the whole book. Go read it when you get a chance. Last paragraph.

Postscript, the last paragraph of Barbara Tuchman's Guns of August (1962): "After the Marne the war grew and spread until it drew in the nations of both hemispheres and entangled them in a pattern of world conflict no peace treaty could dissolve. The Battle of the Marne was one of the decisive battles of the world not because it determined that Germany would ultimately lose or the Allies ultimately win the war but because it determined that the war would go on. There was no looking back, Joffre told the soldiers on the eve. Afterward there was no turning back. The nations were caught in a trap made during the first thirty days out of battles that failed to be decisive, a trap from which there was, and has been, no exit."



Alex Talcott, J.D., is a Faculty Team Lead for Criminal Justice and Political Science at Southern New Hampshire University, where he also teaches business law.

90 Year Old Veteran Gets Degree from Merrimack College

Merrimack College will award a Bachelor of Arts degree to Methuen resident Harold Paragamian in a ceremony at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 2nd, in Our Mother of Good Counsel Chapel in Austin Hall. Members of the media are invited to attend.

Mr. Paragamian, 90, of Methuen, Mass., took occasional classes at Merrimack between 1969 and 1998, earning an Associate's degree along the way. A recent audit of his courses determined he is eligible for a Bachelor's degree, which will be dated 1998.

An Army veteran of World War II, Mr. Paragamian earned four campaign stars during 14 months, from Normandy to the Rhineland, with the 113th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. He retired in 1995 after 40 years working at Fort Devens in Ayer.

The degree will be presented by Merrimack College President Christopher



E. Hopey, Ph.D. A brief reception will follow.

For assistance with these or other inquiries at Merrimack contact Jack Minch 978-837-5156, minchj@merrimack.edu, or Jim Chiavelli, 978-837-5509, chiavellij@merrimack.edu.

HAJJAR FROM PAGE 25

never imagine. It takes a village to raise a child but it takes a country to start a business.

9. BE A GREAT NETWORKER Shameless self promotion. Get used to it. You are your own best billboard and no one can sell your business or idea better than you. Your passion will shine through as you speak of your product and that is what will make it sell and make people believe.

10. PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE - I never knew exactly what this saying meant until I started my own business. I am now 100% clear on what this means. The ability to wait for something without getting angry or upset is a valuable quality in someone. Easier said than done, however there will be a lot of waiting that goes along with starting your own business so be ready to watch the grass grow.

11. DON'T HAVE A PLAN B - If you truly believe in your idea and think you have what it takes to make it work then don't have a PLAN B. Why? Because it distracts from PLAN A. Don't even associate yourself with people that ask you if you have a PLAN B. Do not entertain any thought of your business not working. Make it work. Figure everything out. Do your research and plan accordingly. Plan B's are safety nets and I have never known a successful person that has ever had one.

JUSTINA FROM PAGE 31

love, religious freedom and her right to an education. Lou also testified clearly that he called 911 to seek help from Boston Police to prevent Harvard's Children's Hospital from kidnapping his precious child but that Boston Police refused to help a powerless family from Connecticut fight a Harvard Hospital and never ever did so.

Representative Lyons then invited Attorney Philip Moran to testify. Attorney Moran put on the record that parents have the absolute right to choose treatment decisions in the best interest of their child, that parents have the right to choose a non-Harvard hospital over a Harvard hospital and that they should not be punished for doing so by having the state of Massachusetts take their child away and thrown into foster care. He hoped the Committee would pass this Bill so no other family ever has to go through what Justina and her family were put through.

Representative Lyons brought testimony to a close by stating that it was ironic that DCF spent so much money and time fighting the Pelletiers when they claimed a lack of funds led them to lose track of children genuinely in trouble.

There was loud applause from the standing-room only audience when testimony concluded. Many advocates for the rights of disabled people came out to speak with the Pelletiers as the Hearing moved on to other Bills.

H1469 currently seeks sponsors from the Massachusetts Senate.





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Dog Summer Camp at Woof Woof Doggie Daycare & Boarding

Windham, NH – Summer camp for dogs? If you had to read that twice, don't be fooled. Summer camps have been proven to be beneficial for children, yet dogs are positively influenced in several ways as well. Interaction between different dogs, exercising throughout the day, and engaging in creative themed weeks will benefit your dog this summer.

This summer, Woof Woof Doggie Daycare and Boarding invites all dogs to several weeks of camp throughout July and August. Dogs will enjoy the special themed weeks by partaking in activities, exercise and socialization with other dogs. Your dog will be spoiled for weeks if you take your pup to summer camp at Woof Woof Doggie Daycare and Boarding.

Each week will have these fun themes for your furry friend:

Shark Week - July 6-11
Pirate Week - July 13-18
Baseball/Sports Week - July 20-25
Beach Party Week - July 27-August 1
Superheroes Week - August 3-8
Margaritaville Week - August 10-15
Scavenger Hunt Week August 17-22
Fiesta Week - August 24-29

Dogs are typically considered an additional member of the family, so treat them this summer to camp-themed weeks at Woof Woof Doggie Daycare and Boarding throughout July and August. Summer camp for dogs will be located at Woof Woof Doggie Daycare and Boarding at 47 Rockingham Road in Windham, New Hampshire. For more information, call Woof Woof at 603-890-6239, or visit their website at http://www.woofwoof.net/.

About Drinkwater Productions

Drinkwater Productions LLC based in Hampton, NH, is a full-service event planning and promotions company, working to help its clients realize profits through unique marketing opportunities. To learn more about Drinkwater Productions, please visit www.drinkwaterproductionsevents.com.



Signs of Heat Stroke in Cats

Tracey Zysk
VALLEY PATRIOT KITTY COLUMNIST

It's common to hear about dogs getting heat stroke but did you realize your cat can become overheated? Especially those felines that like to spend the entire day outside. Hiding, jumping, strolling your neighborhood or woods; whatever it may be, they just get so involved in their adventures they don't realize how hot it is outside.

Unlike humans that have the ability to sweat to cool their body temperatures, cats do not sweat. For felines to lower their temperature they rely on panting and licking their fur to keep cool. Not exactly the easiest way to cool down on a hot summer day.

If a cat is unable to find a cool area to rest, or some water to drink, he will become overheated and possibly have a heat stroke.

If your cat becomes overheated, basically his body temperature has risen above 102.5. As a pet owner here are a few signs you should keep in mind if you believe your cat may be having a heat stroke:

- Weakness
- Muscle tremors
- Dizziness
- Anxiety
- Lethargy
- Rapid panting
- Bright red tongue
- Dark red gums or pale gums
- Salivating (thick)

The most obvious sign and early indicator is a simple one...Is your cat walking funny or wobbling?

If you notice your cat is starting to have a stroke or seems hotter than usual:

1. Put an ice pack or some ice cubes on your cat's body. You may even want to wrap the ice pack in a light towel so the extreme difference in temperature doesn't shock your cat's body but the coolness helps lower his temperature.

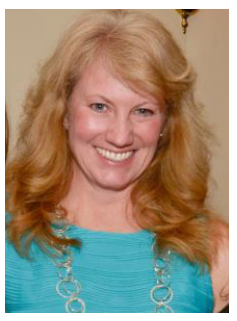
2. If your cat is comfortable with water, try putting him in your bathtub or sink with cool water. Once again, not too cold, but a nice cool temperature.

3. Try to get your cat to drink some water. It may be easier to put water in a syringe to administer water into his mouth rather than attempting to see if he will drink from a bowel.

4. Keep him in a cool room or basement area.

5. Once you get his temperature down call your veterinarian or take him to your veterinarian emergency room.

As always, leave a couple of bowels filled with water and ice cubes, both inside and outside your house for your cat to drink throughout the day.



Tracey Zysk, owner of Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care in North Andover MA is a local pet care professional. She has been featured on local radio, TV and newspapers educating the general public on animal care and animal health & wellness. Tracey is a proud supporter of Police, Fire & Military K9 units and National Award winner of the Platinum PAW award. Tracey may be reached at wigglewalk@comcast.net. Become a fan on Facebook at Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care.

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VACCINES: FROM 27

does nothing but divide us even further and solves nothing.

SO ARE WE PRO CHOICE OR AREN'T WE?

An article written by "Health Impact News" about vaccines was recently posted on Tom Duggan's Facebook page. The article goes on to explain how CDC senior vaccine scientist, Dr. William Thompson has confessed that the CDC has withheld key information linking vaccines to autism.

This post sparked harsh comments, including one by Ben Flagg of Methuen, who wrote, "Anti vaxxers are the worst thing to happen in America in a while. Science denial at its finest".

Comments like this are common, but show the true ignorance of the main issue at hand. In another comment made on the Facebook post, a user went on to say that even if vaccines weaken your immune system, "isn't that better than getting measles?"

The risks associated with vaccines are real (not made up like the CDC wants you to believe) and could happen to you any time you receive a vaccine. Also, that in your lifetime, you most likely won't ever come into contact with anything you would be vaccinated for. Even if you were exposed to any of the diseases, being vaccinated does not ensure immunity, which in turn means potentially still contracting the disease, and spreading it to others.

In response to that particular comment, Facebook user Josh Flagg tries to use this 'comparison': "Why would anyone wear



helmets? You probably won't ever crash your motorcycle, and even if you did a helmet doesn't guarantee you'll survive".

Even though I understand what he was trying to say, his point is invalid when referring to vaccines. Are there any risks associated with wearing a helmet? No.

Are there risks to injecting vaccines directly into your bloodstream? Yes, there are hundreds of potential adverse effects, which you are risking happening when you get vaccinated.

We can all agree to disagree about vaccines, continuing to make our own decisions and living our own lives. One thing we SHOULD all agree on, is protecting our rights of "choice" and maintain the right to decline any medical procedure, whether or not it include vaccinations.

It will become a scary world to live in, knowing that not only do we have no rights, but no rights to our own body! Now that's a "pro-choice" cause everyone should stand behind.

Stephanie Jaskot is a Methuen resident. She is a mother and a graduate of Northern Essex Community College. You can email her at sjaskot754@gmail.com.

News from the American Legion

John Lenotte
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST



John Lenotte is the recipient of the 2012 Valley Patriot Hero of the Year Award and is Commander of the Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4, Haverhill, MA; Past Department Commander, of Massachusetts The American Legion; contact: JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net

As I mentioned in last month's article, the American Legion Baseball State Tournament will be held at Trinity Stadium in Haverhill starting July 25 running through July 29. The Post 4 team is strong this year and proud to host the playoffs. The ceremonies will begin at 9am on Saturday July 25th. For updated information visit the team website at: www.haverhillseniorbaseball.com. I hope many of you will turn out to see some great baseball and perhaps a future major league player. Remember that Carlos Pena once played on the Post 4 team! See you at the ball games!

On a more serious note, the problems with the VA continue to plague veterans and their families. I say families because they are a real part of the picture, albeit an often forgotten one. In a press release on June 26th, I quote: American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm expressed frustration over testimony Thursday on Capitol Hill that the Veterans Health Administration is facing a $2.5 billion budget shortfall this fiscal year. At the same time, Helm reiterated the position of the nation's largest veterans service organization, that outsourcing is not a long-term solution.

"Veterans need the Department of Veterans Affairs, and The American Legion expects VA to provide quality health care in a timely manner to those who served our nation in uniform and earned that benefit," Helm said. "This budget shortfall, which can be attributed to higher-than-expected patient demand and increased resources to attempt to meet it, cannot prevent veterans from getting the care they need when they need it, regardless where we are in the budget cycle. VA is going through its biggest adjustment since the troops came home from World War II. As the VA, the administration and The American Legion did then, we must all work together to find long-term solutions."

"VA needs to be right-sized to meet the needs of today's veterans," Helm said. "Unexpectedly high demand is a pretty clear sign that the veterans of our nation need and want VA health care, as is the unexpectedly low use of non-VA providers so far through the Choice Program. If funds need to move from one budget to another to provide qualified veterans the VA health care they earned and deserve, then move them. In the meantime, VA and Congress simply need to find a long-term solution that does not send veterans looking for care from providers who may or may not understand their needs or accept VA's processes. Veterans deserve better than that." I think those comments say it all.

There are continual reports out of Washington about funds being misspent. Examples include the IRS paying 18 million in contracts to firms that owed the IRS back taxes; 300 thousand IRS employees owe $3.3 billion in back taxes. Social Security has over paid $17 billion over 10 years, recovering $8.1 billion of that amount. And the list goes on. Where is the outrage in Congress? Where is your outrage? Have you called or emailed your Congressperson or Senator? Money is virtually spent without oversight in some areas while those who are most in need have to fight for every penny. Is there anyone more deserving who has given his or her health for this country? Or the family of one who gave their life for this country?

Especially as we look to enjoy July 4th, Independence Day, will you remember where our freedom comes from? And that here in Massachusetts, it all began with the original Tea Party, meetings in Faneuil Hall, battles at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill. Will you remind your children and grandchildren of the sacrifices made so the cookouts and fireworks can be enjoyed this holiday? Let us not forget for when we do, so much will be lost.

God Bless our troops and their families. May they all come home safe.



HERO: FROM 1



B-17 Bombers Release their Payload During WWII

is a plaque dedicated by the grateful British to the 452nd Bomb Group.

All of the squadrons had their stories and the 452nd alone had a wealth of them, some of them pleasant, some of them not, but all of them in their own way memorable.

One of the unusual ones concerned a B-17 from Deopham Green named "Sunrise Serenade" after the popular song of the period. "Sunrise Serenade" was hit hard on a mission and had been hit so hard that several of the crew decided the time had come to leave. A few were able to use their parachutes and get out, but "Sunrise Serenade" was damaged so badly that it broke apart and crashed. Part of the bomber crashed onto the lands of a castle in Belgium and the tail nearly hit the castle itself. What was left of "Sunrise" then lay nearly forgotten for half a century until a Belgian group decided to attempt to recover whatever might be left.

Back in the states, one of the survivors who had jumped from the falling bomber heard about the recovery effort and made the cryptic remark, "If they find a pair of boots, they're mine!" When questioned about why he had not been wearing his boots, he explained that at altitude it was so cold that the G.I. boots were not adequate protection against the cold so many of the guys would bring along a pair of boots to use on the ground in place of their flying boots in case they were shot down. Flying boots were not built to endure walking. The damage to "Sunrise" had been so sudden and so drastic that the gunner had had no time to do anything except make certain his parachute was strapped on and then jump.

Yes, the search group found his boots!

It is unknown if they gave them back ... but it would have been one hell of a souvenir!

Another story concerned a young lieutenant who was the co-pilot of a B-17. He and his crew were jumped by a pair of Luftwaffe Ju-88 fighter-bombers and shot up badly with both of their left engines so badly damaged that they had to stop them and feather the props. (Note: actually it was a good thing for the allies that some "genius" in Germany had decided that the Ju-88 had to be redesigned to have dive-bombing capabilities with the result that it was built much heavier than it needed to be with resulting lower performance. Had they left it as originally designed it would have been an even more fearsome opponent.) The two pilots realized that it was going to be a truly daunting task to keep a loaded B-17 airborne on only two engines, and even more so on only the two right engines; they realized they would have to "go for the deck" and lighten the bomber as much as possible. They jettisoned their bomb load and began to throw out every piece of non-essential equipment as they traded about twenty-five thousand feet for additional range.

Carefully looking at their briefing maps, they plotted a return to England that avoided all of the known flak installations. Or so they thought.

But even at their lightened weight, flying their B-17 at minimum altitude on only the two right engines was a nearly herculean task and the two pilots had to help each other with all they had to keep it in the air. At one point they almost lost it when they had to climb a few feet to miss some high-tension wires and they must have had to virtually stand on the rudders to keep the stricken bomber flying anywhere near straight.

Seeing a farmhouse below them, they barely missed the roof and discovered that, masked by the house, there was a flak gun installation in the back yard! The surprised gunners opened up on them and tore up the right inboard engine setting it on fire and thereby making moot the point of trying to keep their B-17 in the air.

Choosing a nearby field they put their Boeing down as lightly as they could and when the smoke settled found that the crew were basically unhurt. However as they climbed out they saw German troops from the nearby flak gun running toward them and firing in the air to frighten off the few Belgians who had run over in an attempt to help the Americans. The two pilots later reported that they were "roughed up" by the Germans and as they were marched off, they saw two young Belgian boys on their bicycles who had witnessed the entire crash landing and subsequent events from a road adjacent to the field. They did not notice that one of them was writing something on a scrap of paper.

As an interesting aside, because the pilot was Jewish, his dog tags were stamped with the letter "H" (for Hebrew) but it was a common practice for Jewish aircrew to have a second set of dog tags stamped with a "P" (for Protestant) which they wore on missions. The Germans often asked if there were any Jews among their POW's; but no one ever talked.

They were eventually sent to Stalag Luft 3 in Poland (which was the location about which the actor Steve McQueen later made the subject of his film The Great Escape), and it was not nearly as habitable a place as the film portrayed. Our two pilots also endured what became known to a few as the Stalag Luft 3 death march as the Germans force-marched the camp several hundred miles away in deep winter to keep the valuable American aircrews from being captured by the advancing Russians. More than a few Americans died from cold and starvation. Our co-pilot saw and experienced it.

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